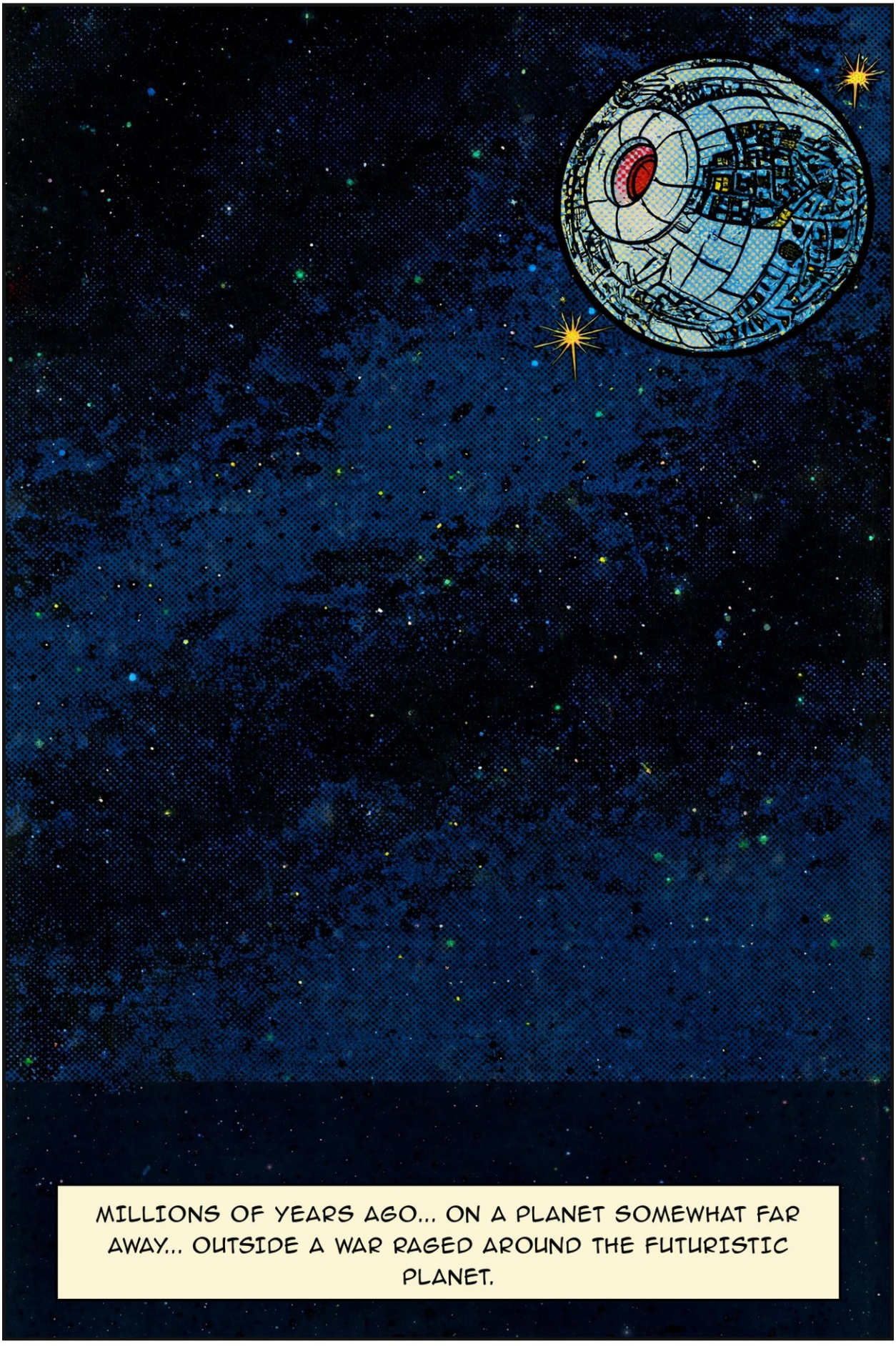
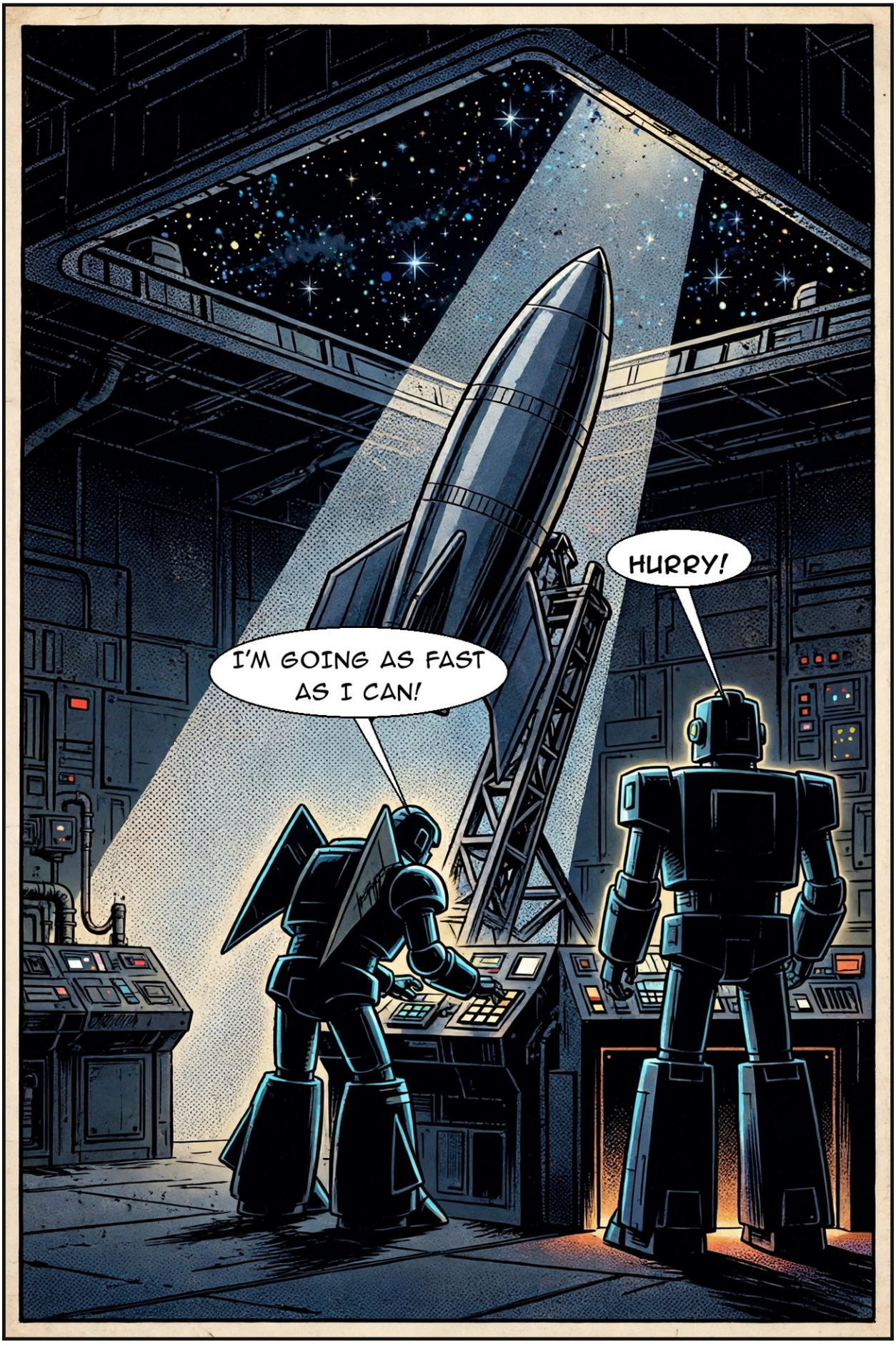
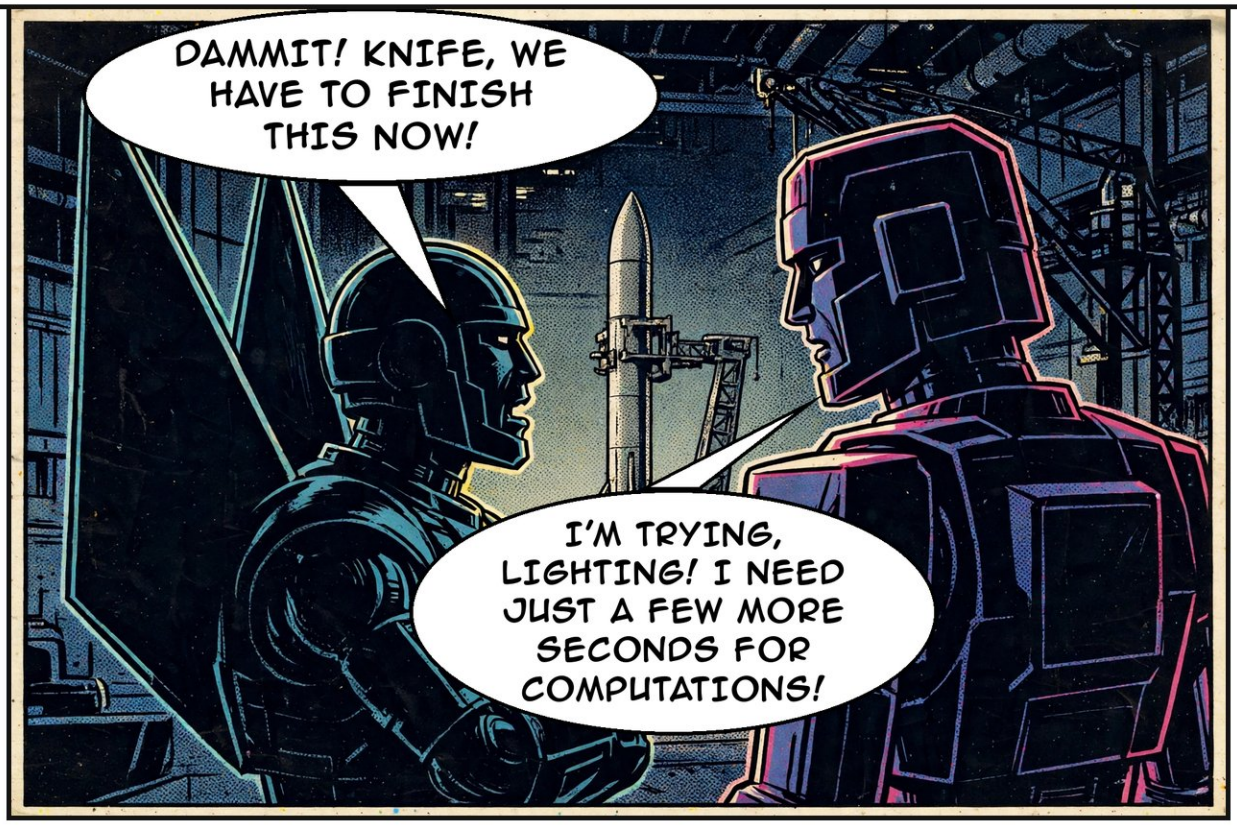

ANTHONY ANSELMO PRESENTS
ZAPBOTS
THE BEGINNING
No. 1
$1.50 NOV
ONE BOY. NINE ROBOTS.
THE DESTINY OF TWO WORLDS.

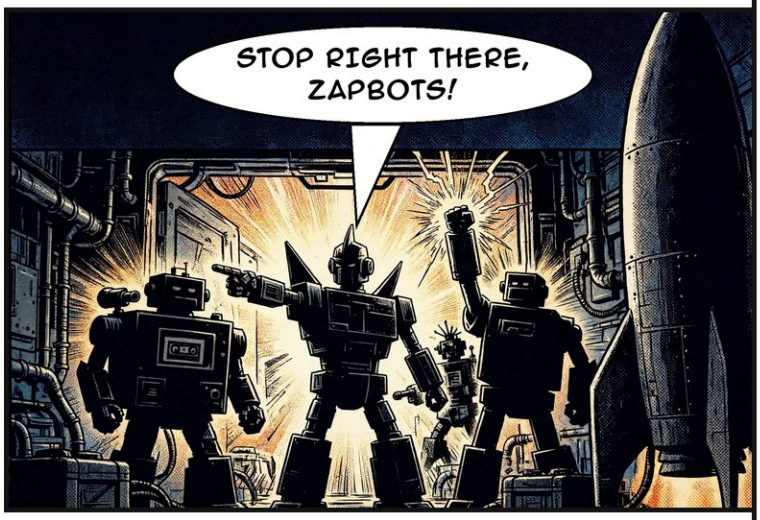

MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO... ON A PLANET SOMEWHAT FAR AWAY... OUTSIDE A WAR RAGED AROUND THE FUTURISTIC PLANET.


HURRY!
I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN!


THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH THE SHIELD!


DAMMIT! KNIFE, WE HAVE TO FINISH THIS NOW!
I'M TRYING, LIGHTING! I NEED JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS FOR COMPUTATIONS!

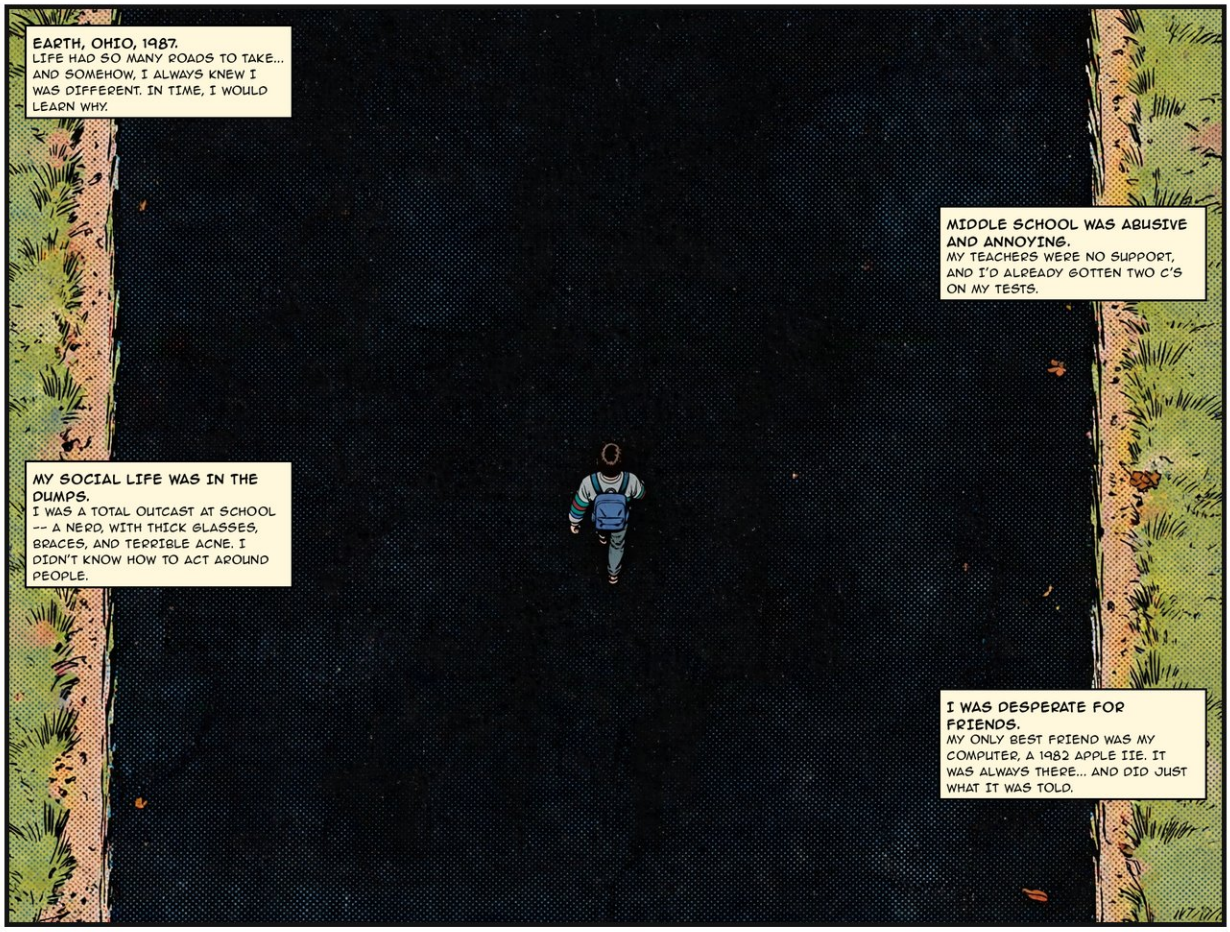


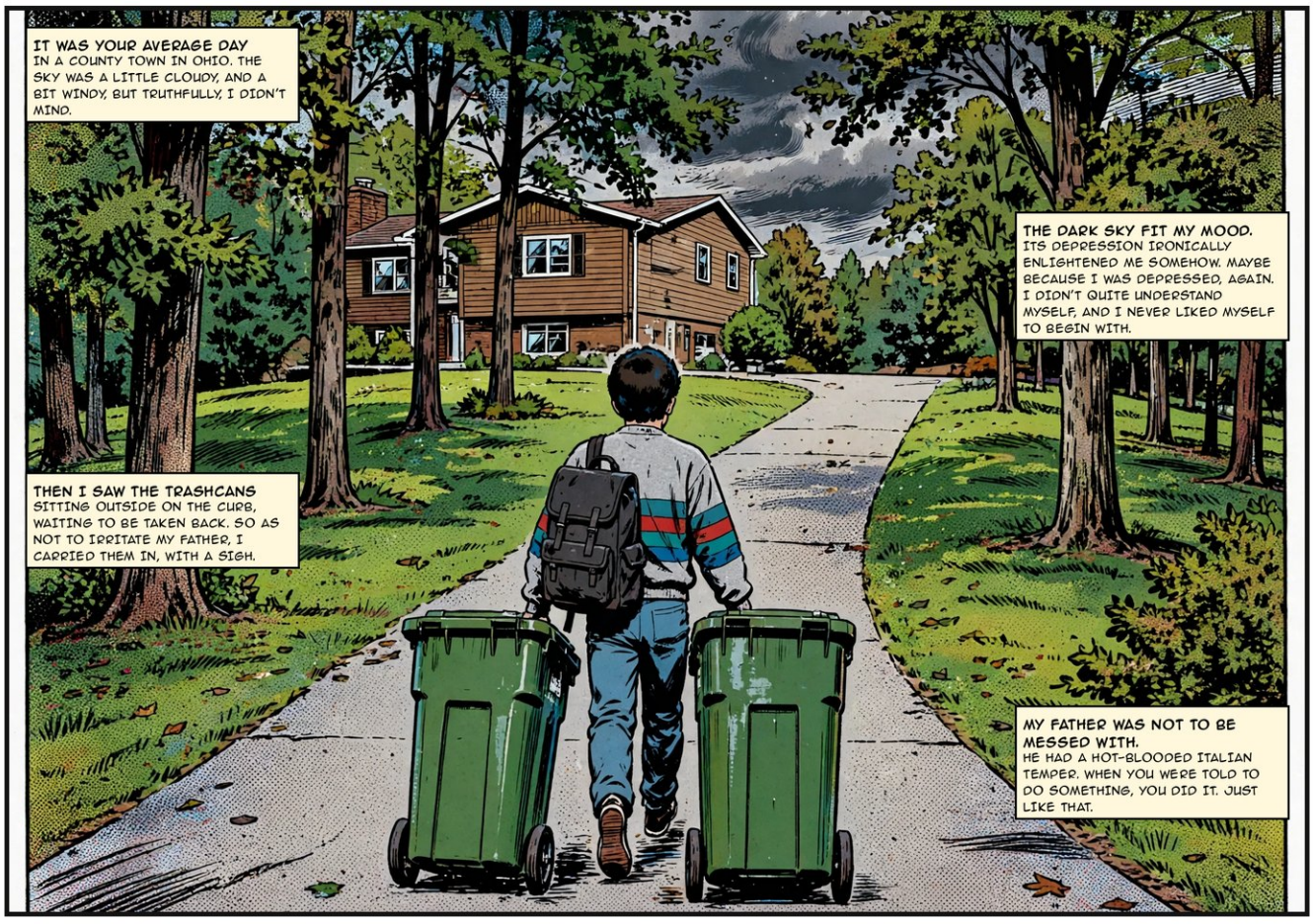

STOP RIGHT THERE, ZAPBOTS!

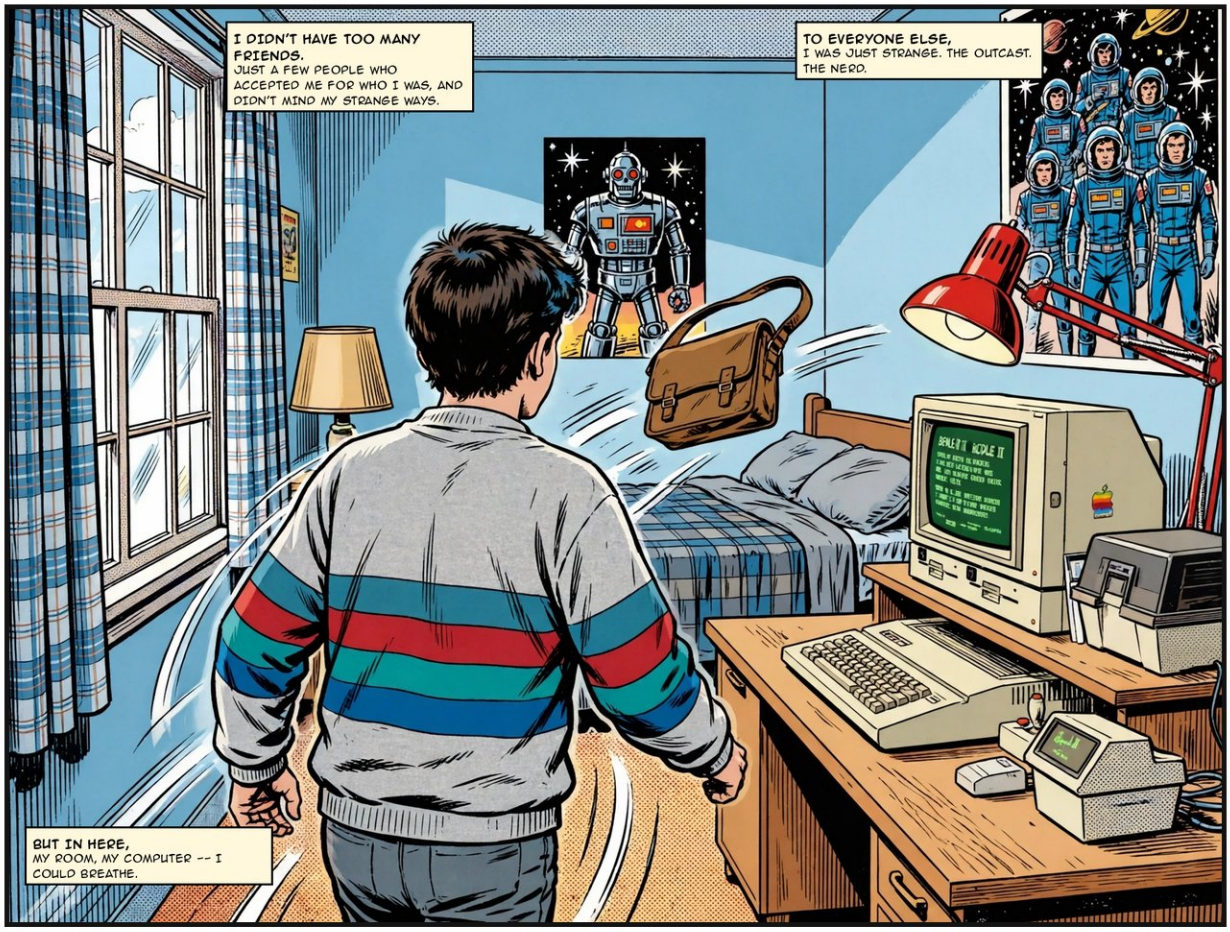

IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

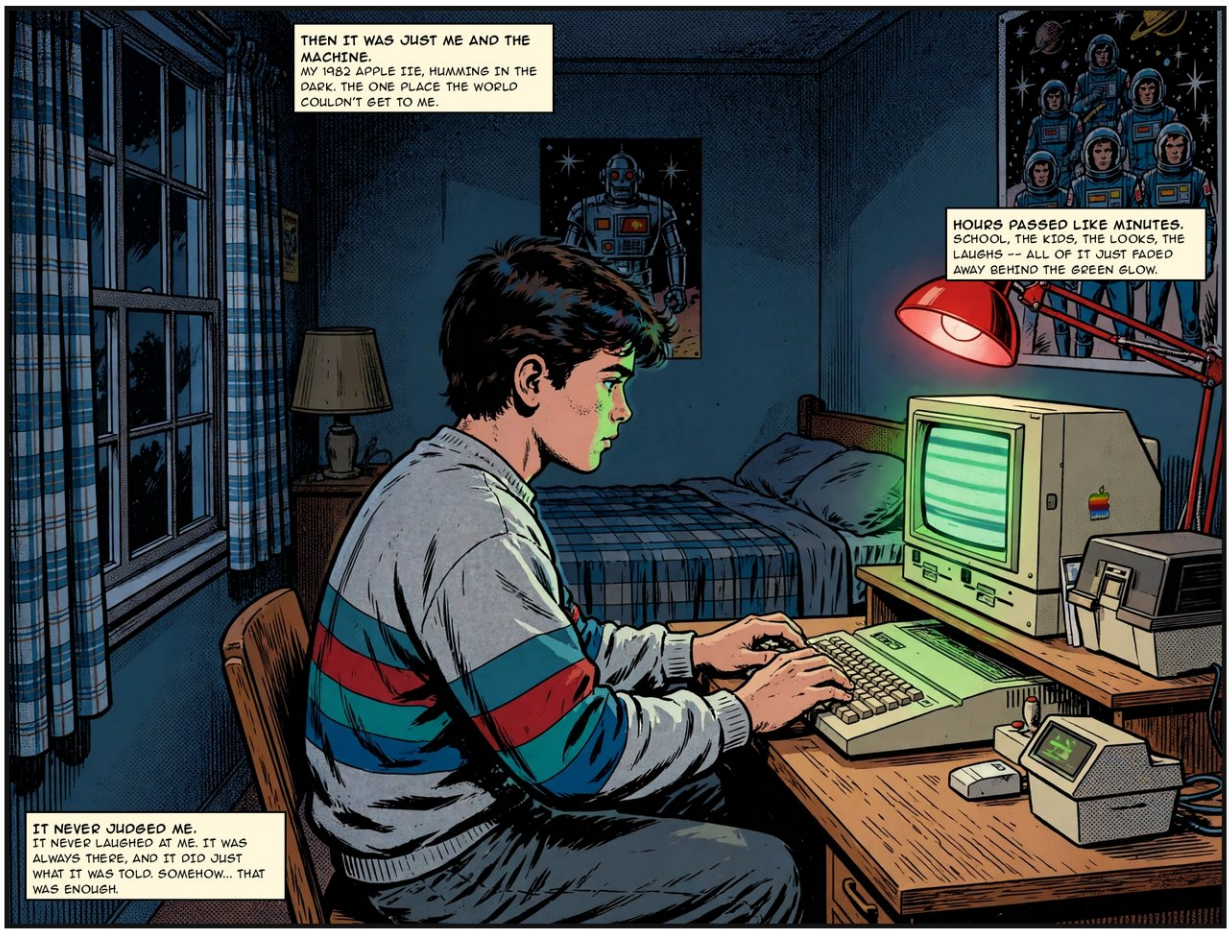


LASER FIRE BEGAN BETWEEN THE PEACEFUL ZAPBOTS AND THE ENEMIES IN THE ROOM. WHAT BECAME OF THEM IS STILL UNKNOWN...

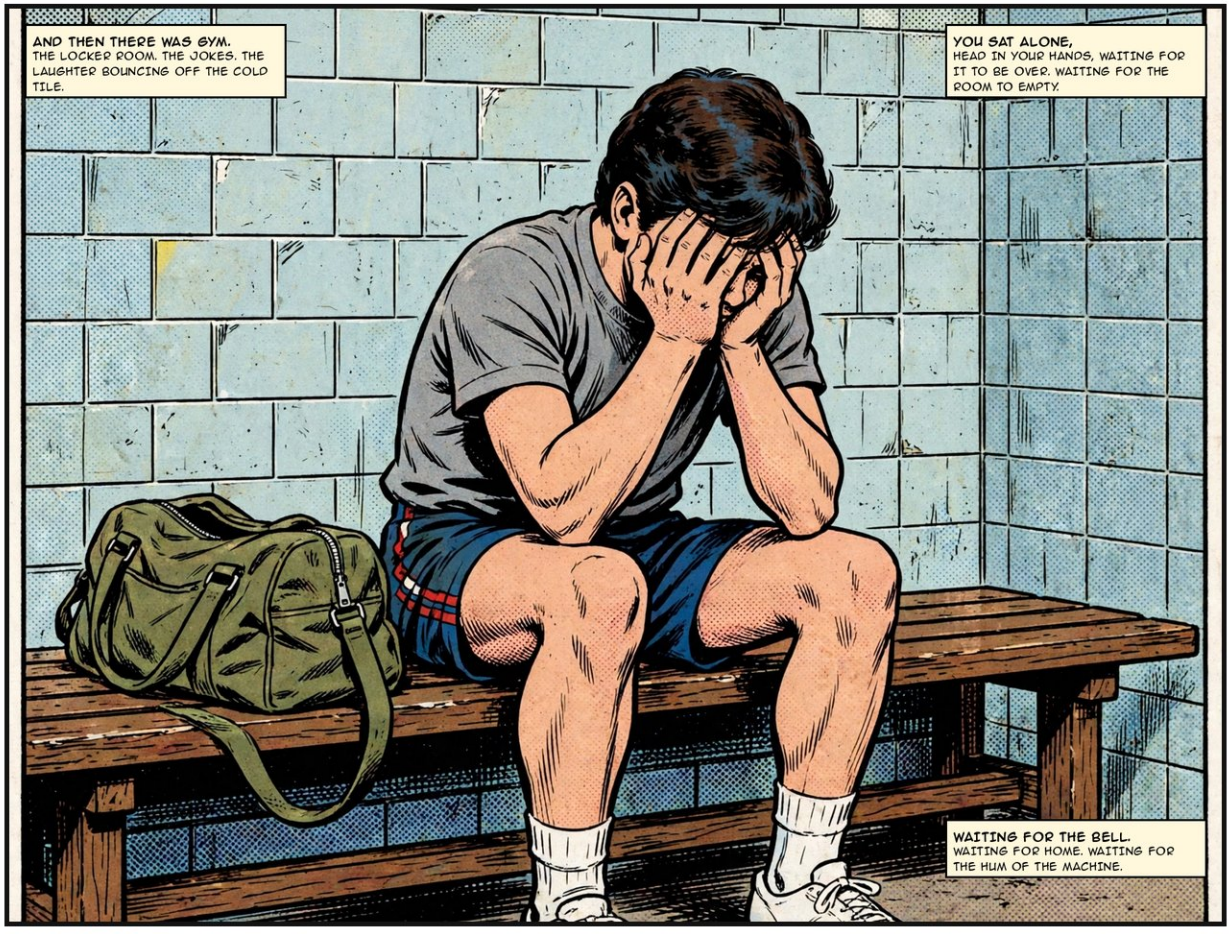

EARTH, OHIO, 1987.
LIFE HAD SO MANY ROADS TO TAKE... AND SOMEHOW, I ALWAYS KNEW I WAS DIFFERENT. IN TIME, I WOULD LEARN WHY.
MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS ABUSIVE AND ANNOYING.
MY TEACHERS WERE NO SUPPORT, AND I'D ALREADY GOTTEN TWO C'S ON MY TESTS.
MY SOCIAL LIFE WAS IN THE DUMPS.
I WAS A TOTAL OUTCAST AT SCHOOL -- A NERD, WITH THICK GLASSES, BRACES, AND TERRIBLE ACNE. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO ACT AROUND PEOPLE.
I WAS DESPERATE FOR FRIENDS.
MY ONLY BEST FRIEND WAS MY COMPUTER, A 1982 APPLE IIE. IT WAS ALWAYS THERE... AND DID JUST WHAT IT WAS TOLD.

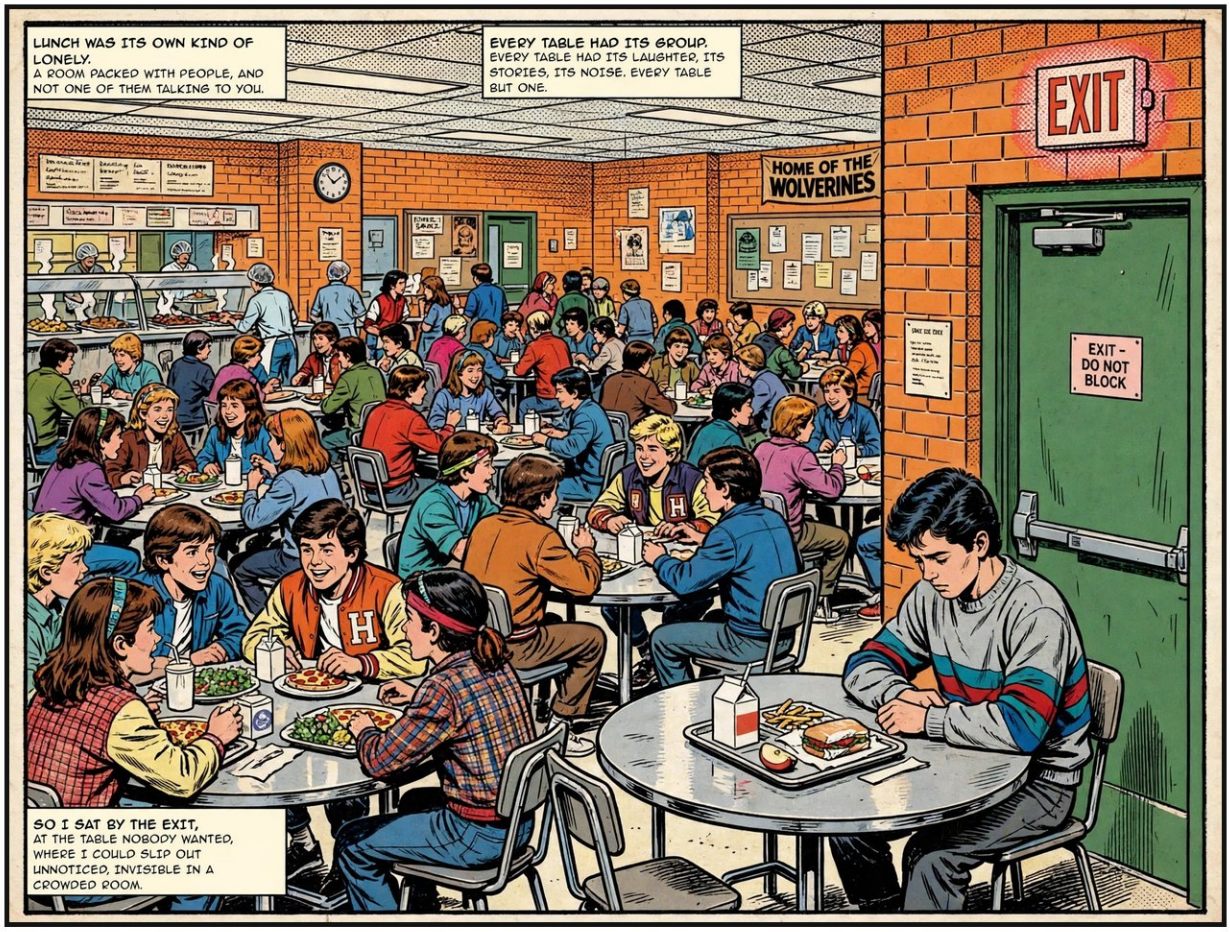

IT WAS YOUR AVERAGE DAY
IN A COUNTY TOWN IN OHIO. THE SKY WAS A LITTLE CLOUDY, AND A BIT WINDY, BUT TRUTHFULLY, I DIDN'T MIND.
THE DARK SKY FIT MY MOOD.
ITS DEPRESSION IRONICALLY ENLIGHTENED ME SOMEHOW. MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS DEPRESSED, AGAIN. I DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND MYSELF, AND I NEVER LIKED MYSELF TO BEGIN WITH.
THEN I SAW THE TRASHCANS
SITTING OUTSIDE ON THE CURB, WAITING TO BE TAKEN BACK. SO AS NOT TO IRRITATE MY FATHER, I CARRIED THEM IN, WITH A SIGH.
MY FATHER WAS NOT TO BE MESSED WITH.
HE HAD A HOT-BLOODED ITALIAN TEMPER. WHEN YOU WERE TOLD TO DO SOMETHING, YOU DID IT. JUST LIKE THAT.

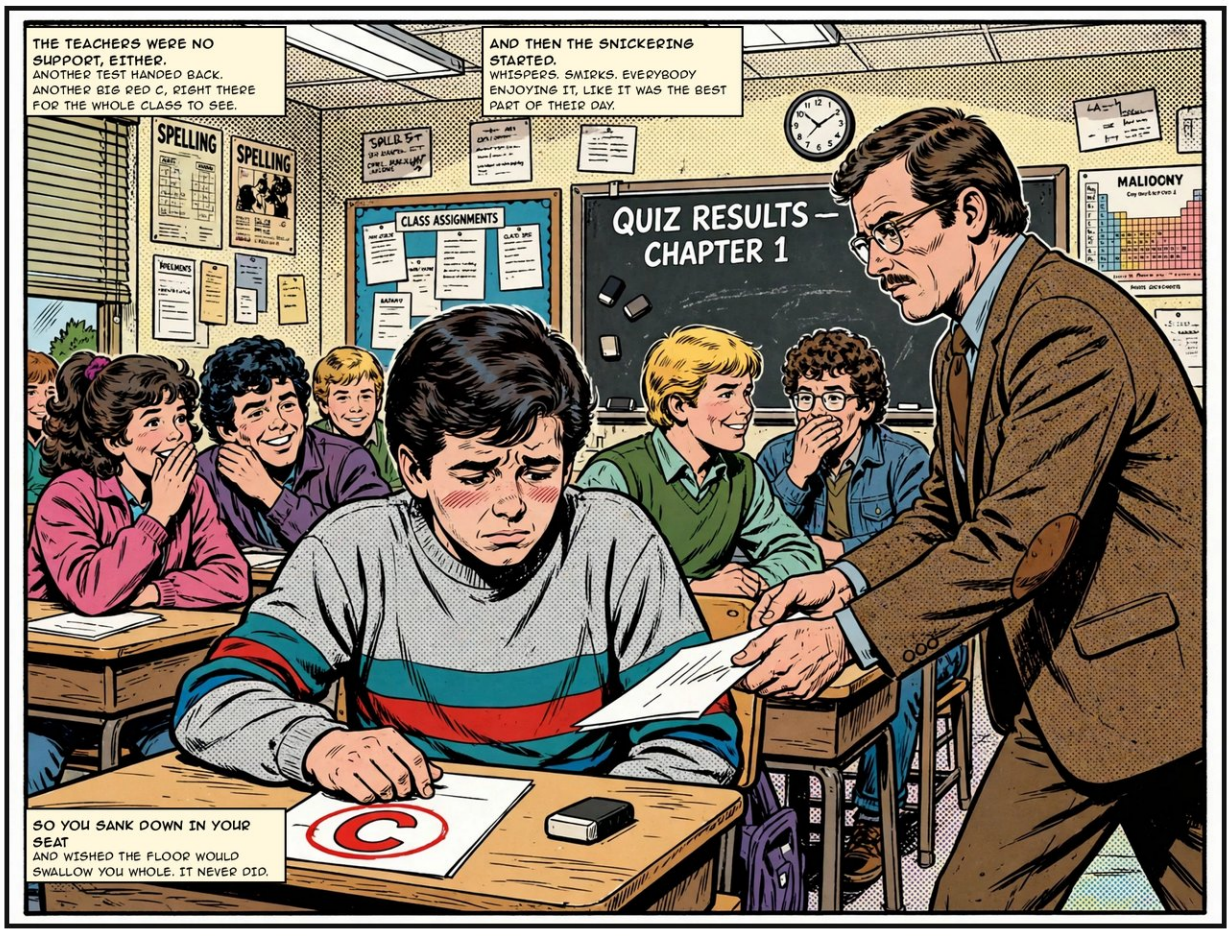

I DIDN'T HAVE TOO MANY FRIENDS.
JUST A FEW PEOPLE WHO ACCEPTED ME FOR WHO I WAS, AND DIDN'T MIND MY STRANGE WAYS.
TO EVERYONE ELSE,
I WAS JUST STRANGE. THE OUTCAST. THE NERD.
BUT IN HERE,
MY ROOM, MY COMPUTER -- I COULD BREATHE.

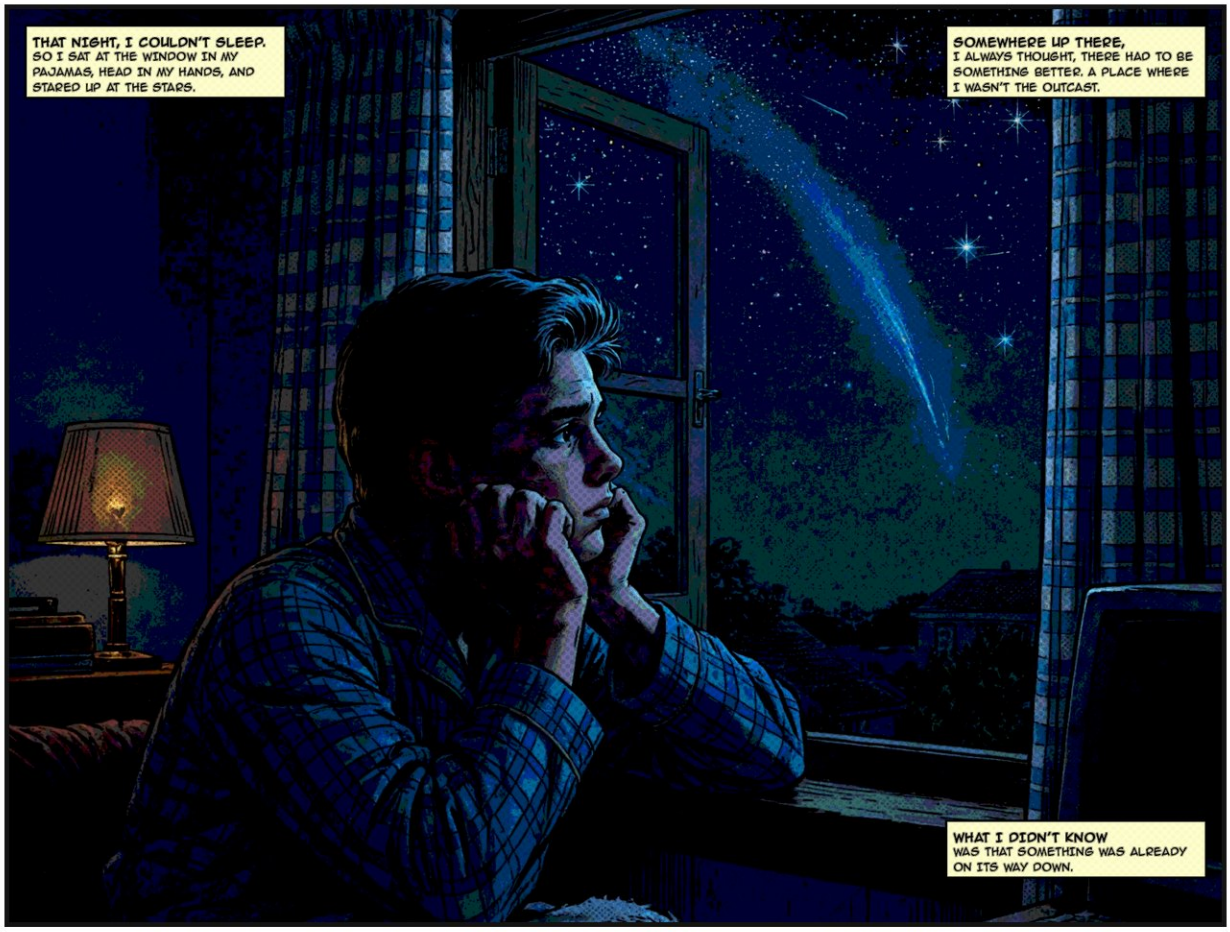

THEN IT WAS JUST ME AND THE MACHINE.
MY 1982 APPLE IIE, HUMMING IN THE DARK. THE ONE PLACE THE WORLD COULDN'T GET TO ME.
HOURS PASSED LIKE MINUTES.
SCHOOL, THE KIDS, THE LOOKS, THE LAUGHS -- ALL OF IT JUST FADED AWAY BEHIND THE GREEN GLOW.
IT NEVER JUDGED ME.
IT NEVER LAUGHED AT ME. IT WAS ALWAYS THERE, AND IT DID JUST WHAT IT WAS TOLD. SOMEHOW... THAT WAS ENOUGH.

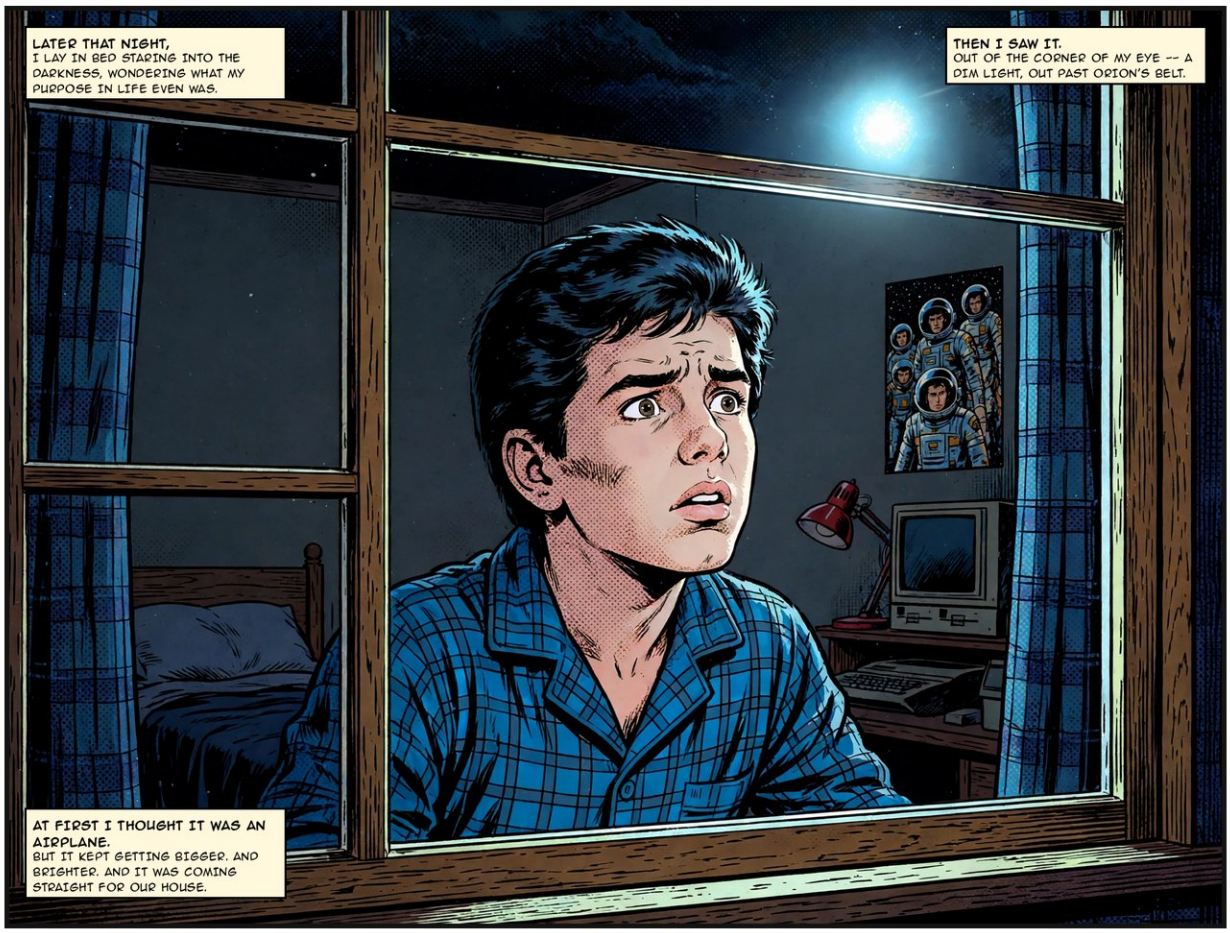

MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS ABUSIVE AND ANNOYING.
A SHOULDER IN THE HALLWAY, OUT OF NOWHERE. BOOKS EVERYWHERE. JUST ANOTHER DAY.
EVERYBODY LAUGHED.
NOBODY HELPED. NOBODY EVER HELPED. THEY JUST STOOD THERE AND LAUGHED.
~ ROOM 214 ~ SCIENCE CLASS
SO YOU PICKED UP YOUR BOOKS
AND KEPT WALKING. WHAT ELSE COULD YOU DO?

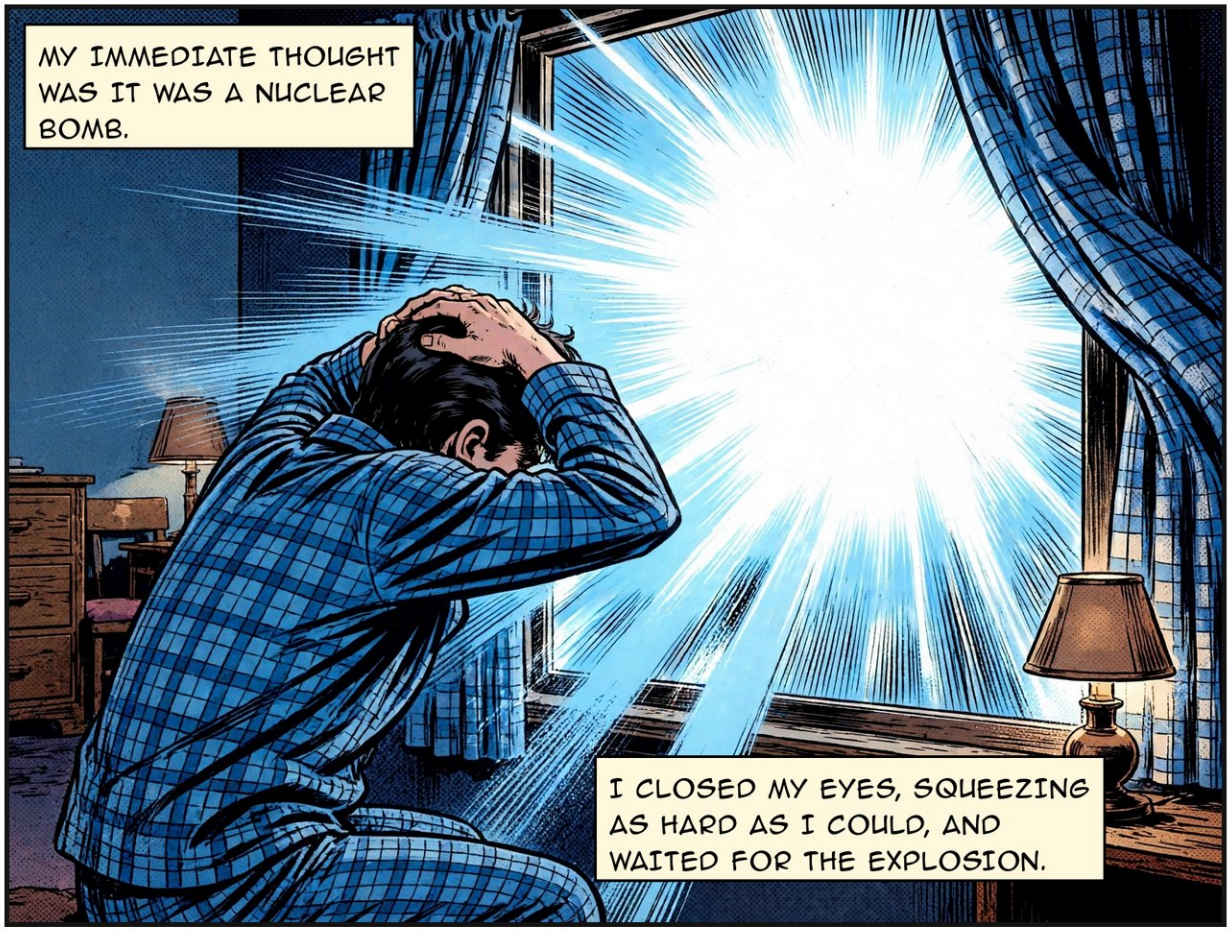

AND THEN THERE WAS GYM.
THE LOCKER ROOM. THE JOKES. THE LAUGHTER BOUNCING OFF THE COLD TILE.
YOU SAT ALONE,
HEAD IN YOUR HANDS, WAITING FOR IT TO BE OVER. WAITING FOR THE ROOM TO EMPTY.
WAITING FOR THE BELL.
WAITING FOR HOME. WAITING FOR THE HUM OF THE MACHINE.

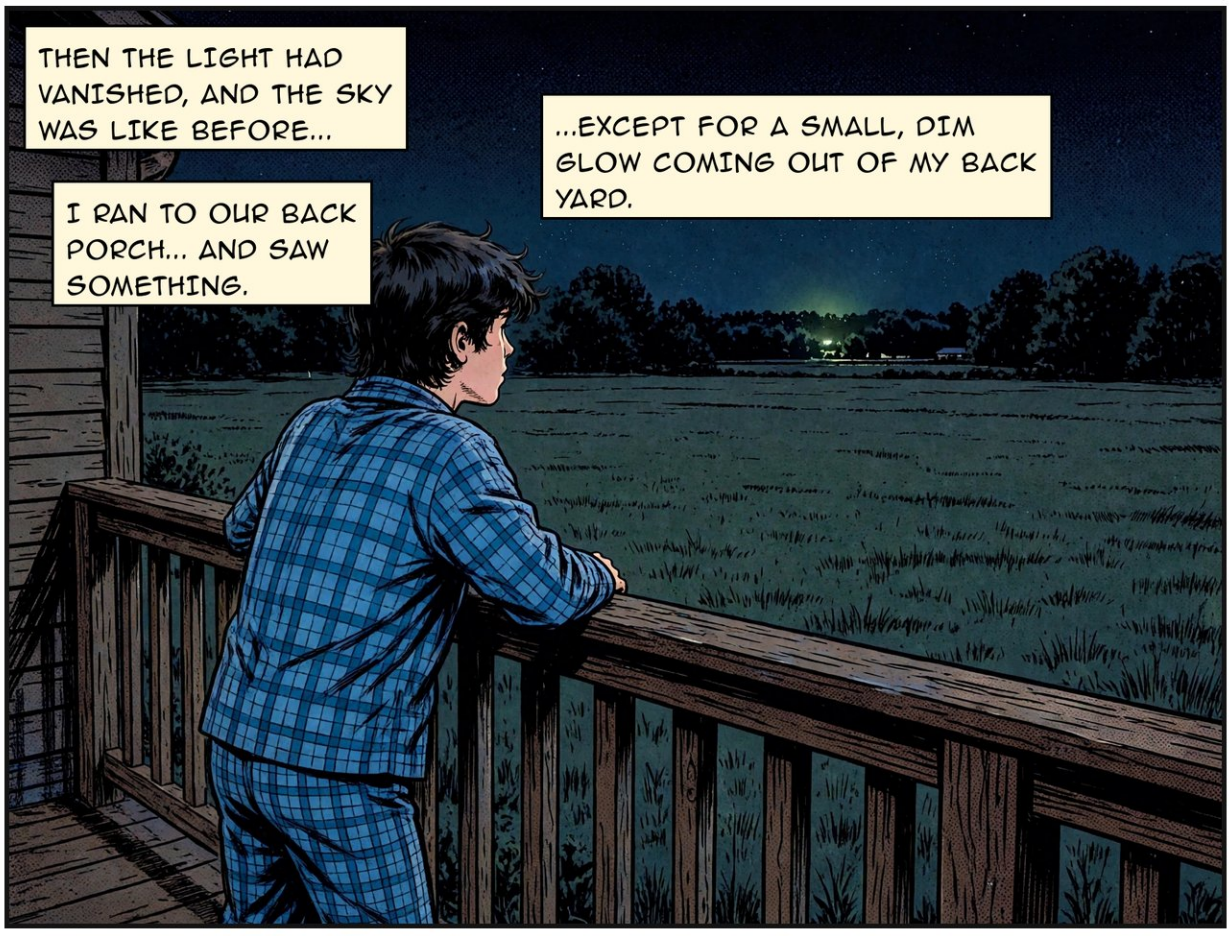

LUNCH WAS ITS OWN KIND OF LONELY.
A ROOM PACKED WITH PEOPLE, AND NOT ONE OF THEM TALKING TO YOU.
EVERY TABLE HAD ITS GROUP.
EVERY TABLE HAD ITS LAUGHTER, ITS STORIES, ITS NOISE. EVERY TABLE BUT ONE.
HOME OF THE WOLVERINES
EXIT
EXIT – DO NOT BLOCK
SO I SAT BY THE EXIT,
AT THE TABLE NOBODY WANTED, WHERE I COULD SLIP OUT UNNOTICED, INVISIBLE IN A CROWDED ROOM.

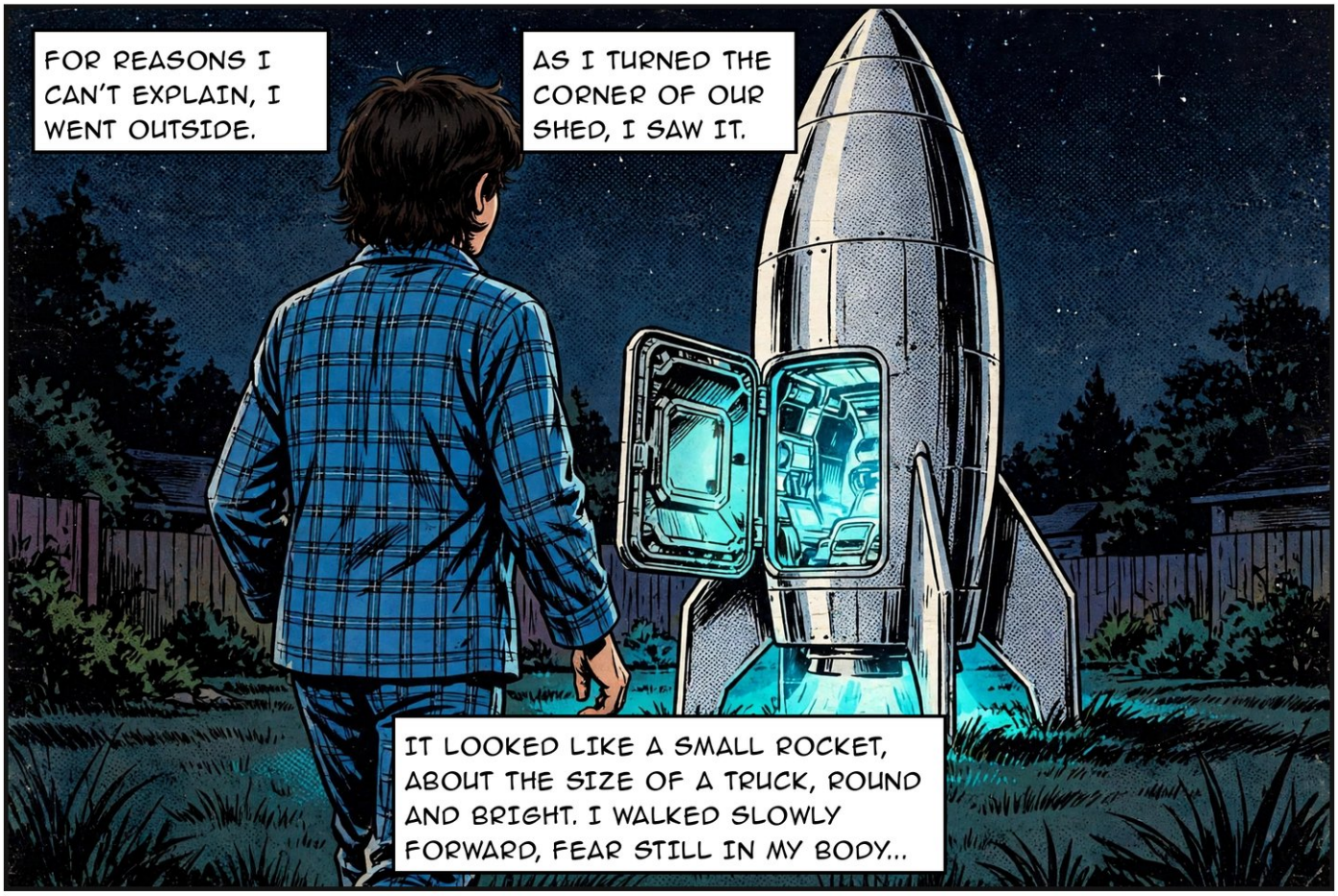

THE TEACHERS WERE NO SUPPORT, EITHER.
ANOTHER TEST HANDED BACK. ANOTHER BIG RED C, RIGHT THERE FOR THE WHOLE CLASS TO SEE.
AND THEN THE SNICKERING STARTED.
WHISPERS. SMIRKS. EVERYBODY ENJOYING IT, LIKE IT WAS THE BEST PART OF THEIR DAY.
SPELLING
SPELLING
CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
QUIZ RESULTS — CHAPTER 1
MALIOONY
C
SO YOU SANK DOWN IN YOUR SEAT
AND WISHED THE FLOOR WOULD SWALLOW YOU WHOLE. IT NEVER DID.

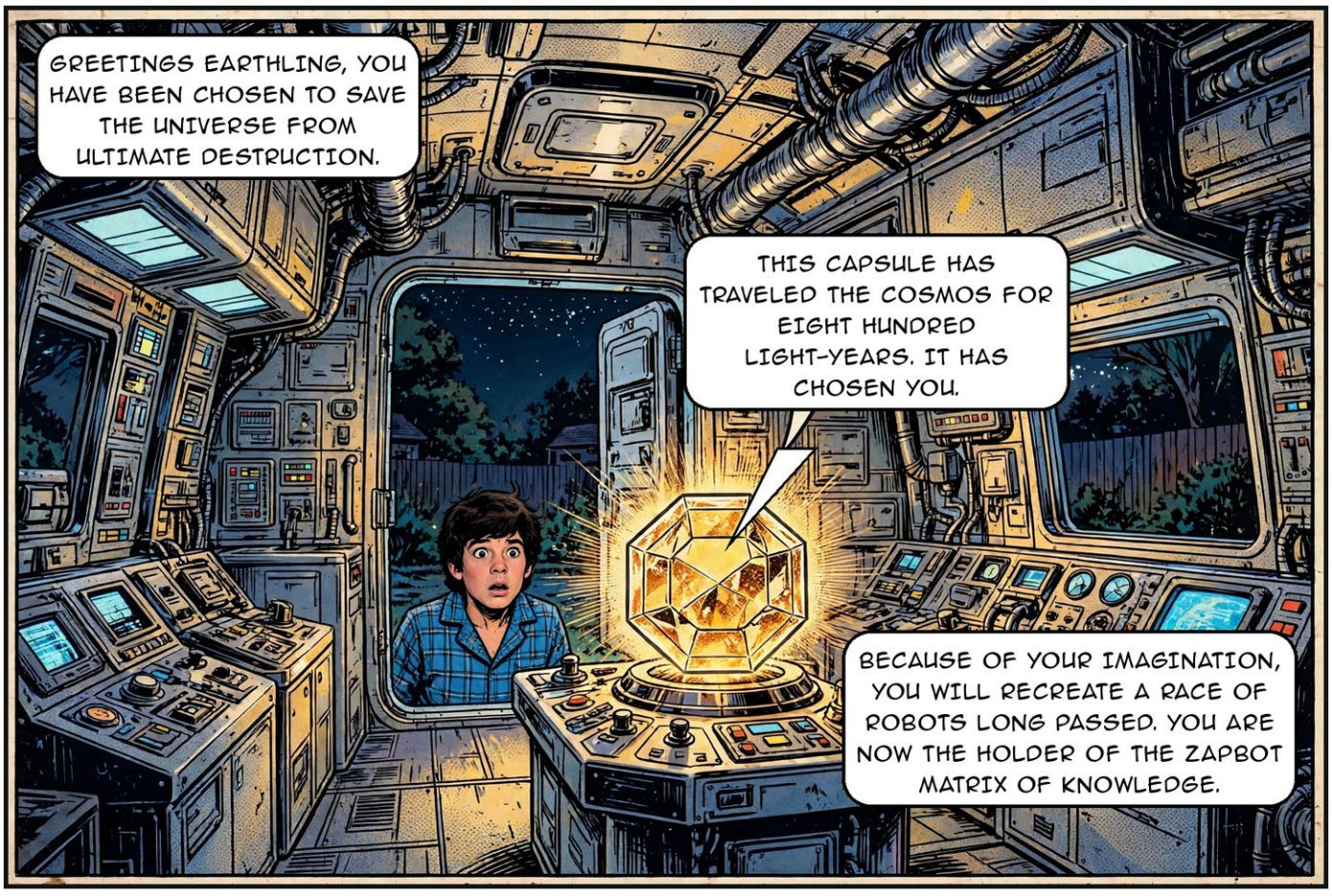

THAT NIGHT, I COULDN'T SLEEP.
SO I SAT AT THE WINDOW IN MY PAJAMAS, HEAD IN MY HANDS, AND STARED UP AT THE STARS.
SOMEWHERE UP THERE,
I ALWAYS THOUGHT, THERE HAD TO BE SOMETHING BETTER. A PLACE WHERE I WASN'T THE OUTCAST.
WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW
WAS THAT SOMETHING WAS ALREADY ON ITS WAY DOWN.


LATER THAT NIGHT,
I LAY IN BED STARING INTO THE DARKNESS, WONDERING WHAT MY PURPOSE IN LIFE EVEN WAS.
THEN I SAW IT.
OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE -- A DIM LIGHT, OUT PAST ORION'S BELT.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS AN AIRPLANE.
BUT IT KEPT GETTING BIGGER. AND BRIGHTER. AND IT WAS COMING STRAIGHT FOR OUR HOUSE.

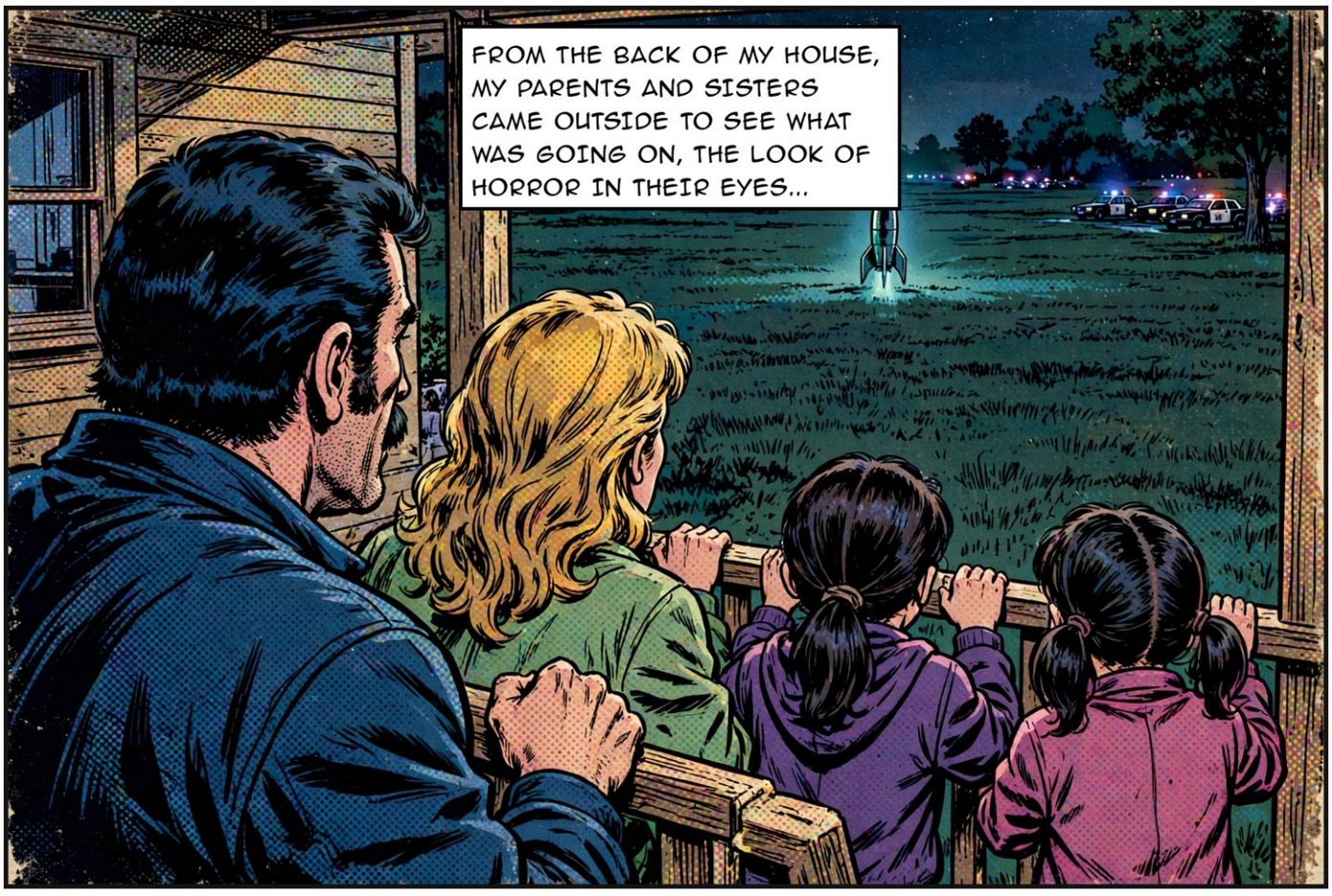

MY IMMEDIATE THOUGHT WAS IT WAS A NUCLEAR BOMB.
I CLOSED MY EYES, SQUEEZING AS HARD AS I COULD, AND WAITED FOR THE EXPLOSION.

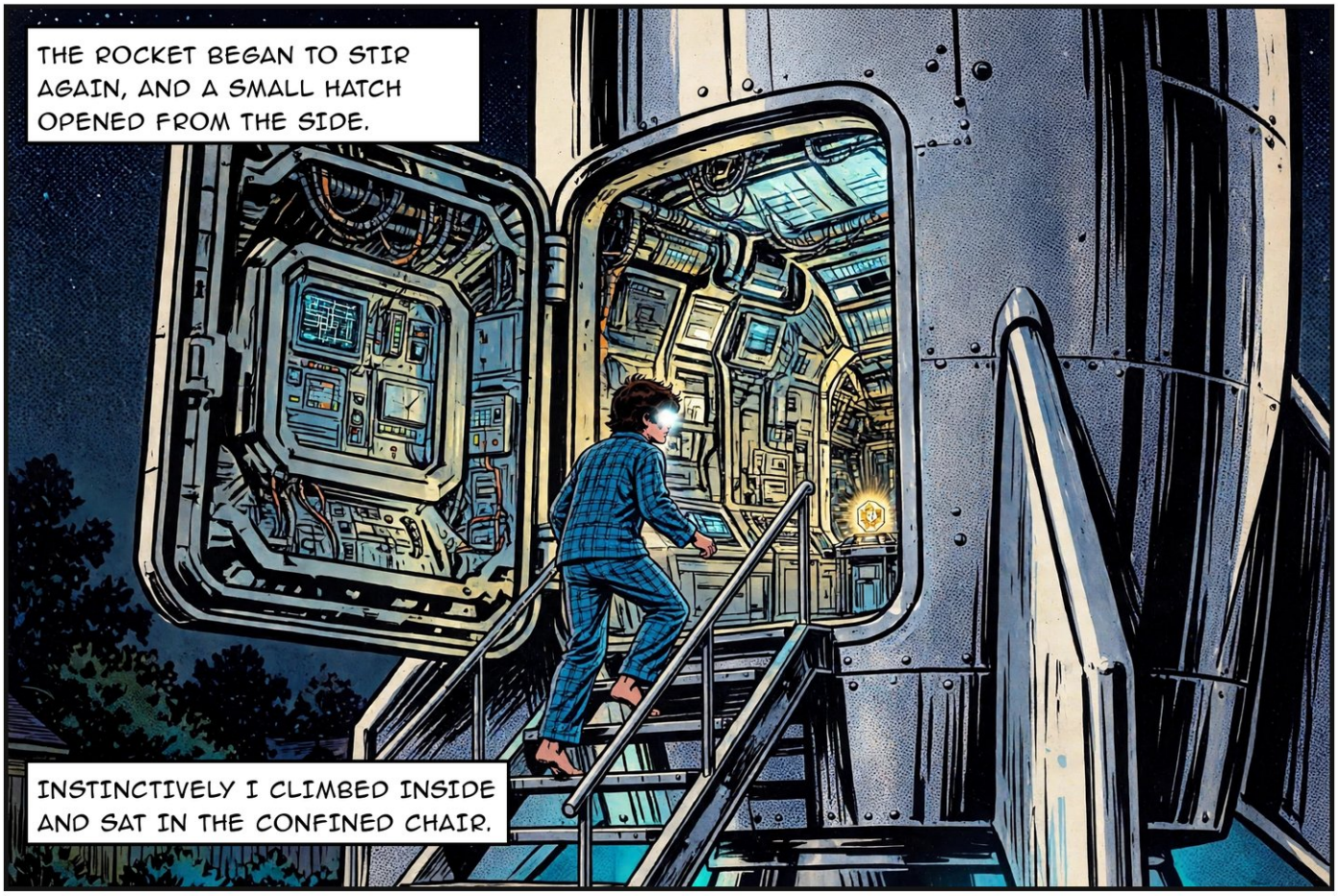

THEN THE LIGHT HAD VANISHED, AND THE SKY WAS LIKE BEFORE...
I RAN TO OUR BACK PORCH... AND SAW SOMETHING.
...EXCEPT FOR A SMALL, DIM GLOW COMING OUT OF MY BACK YARD.

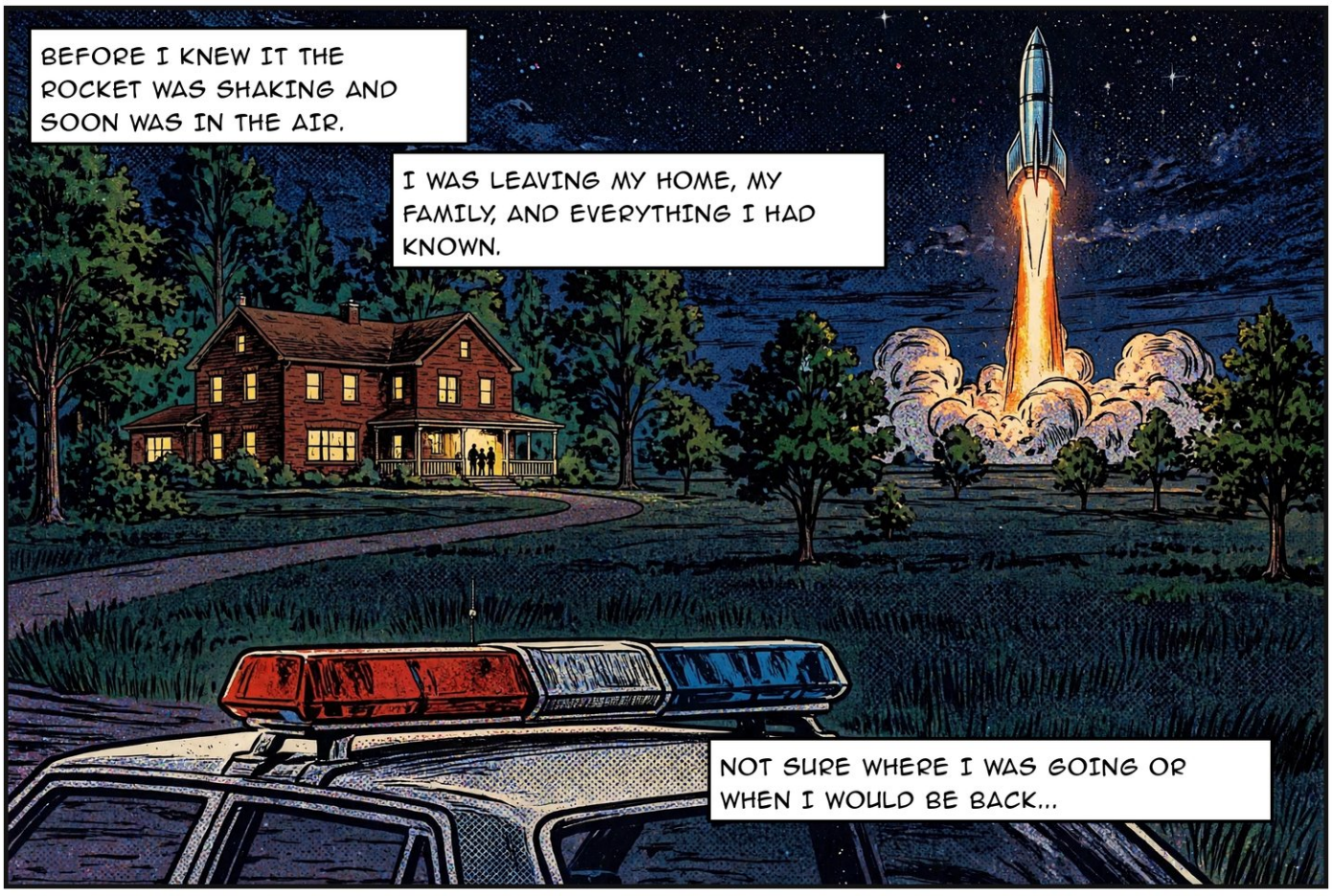

FOR REASONS I CAN'T EXPLAIN, I WENT OUTSIDE.
AS I TURNED THE CORNER OF OUR SHED, I SAW IT.
IT LOOKED LIKE A SMALL ROCKET, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A TRUCK, ROUND AND BRIGHT. I WALKED SLOWLY FORWARD, FEAR STILL IN MY BODY...

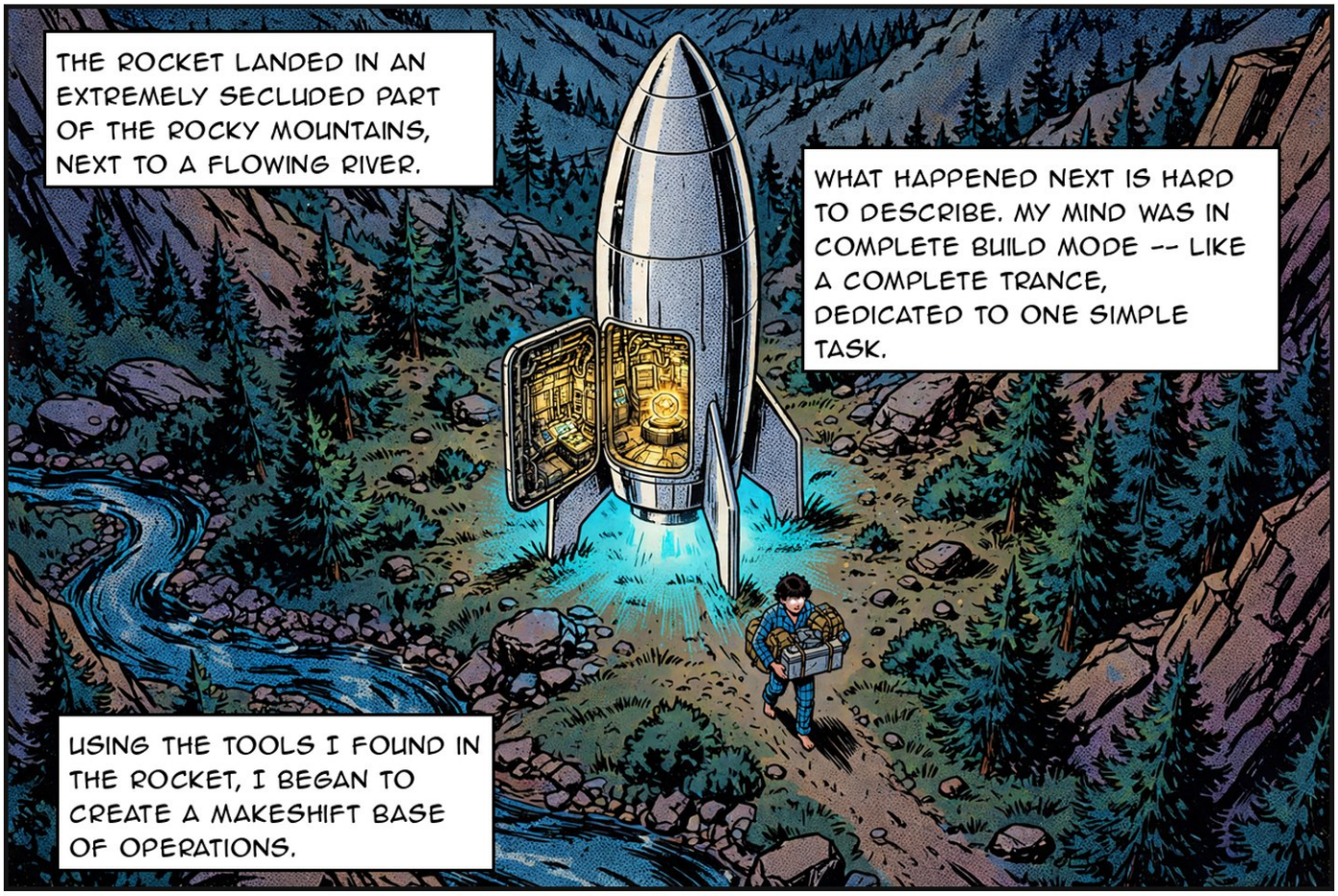

GREETINGS EARTHLING, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION.
THIS CAPSULE HAS TRAVELED THE COSMOS FOR EIGHT HUNDRED LIGHT-YEARS. IT HAS CHOSEN YOU.
BECAUSE OF YOUR IMAGINATION, YOU WILL RECREATE A RACE OF ROBOTS LONG PASSED. YOU ARE NOW THE HOLDER OF THE ZAPBOT MATRIX OF KNOWLEDGE.

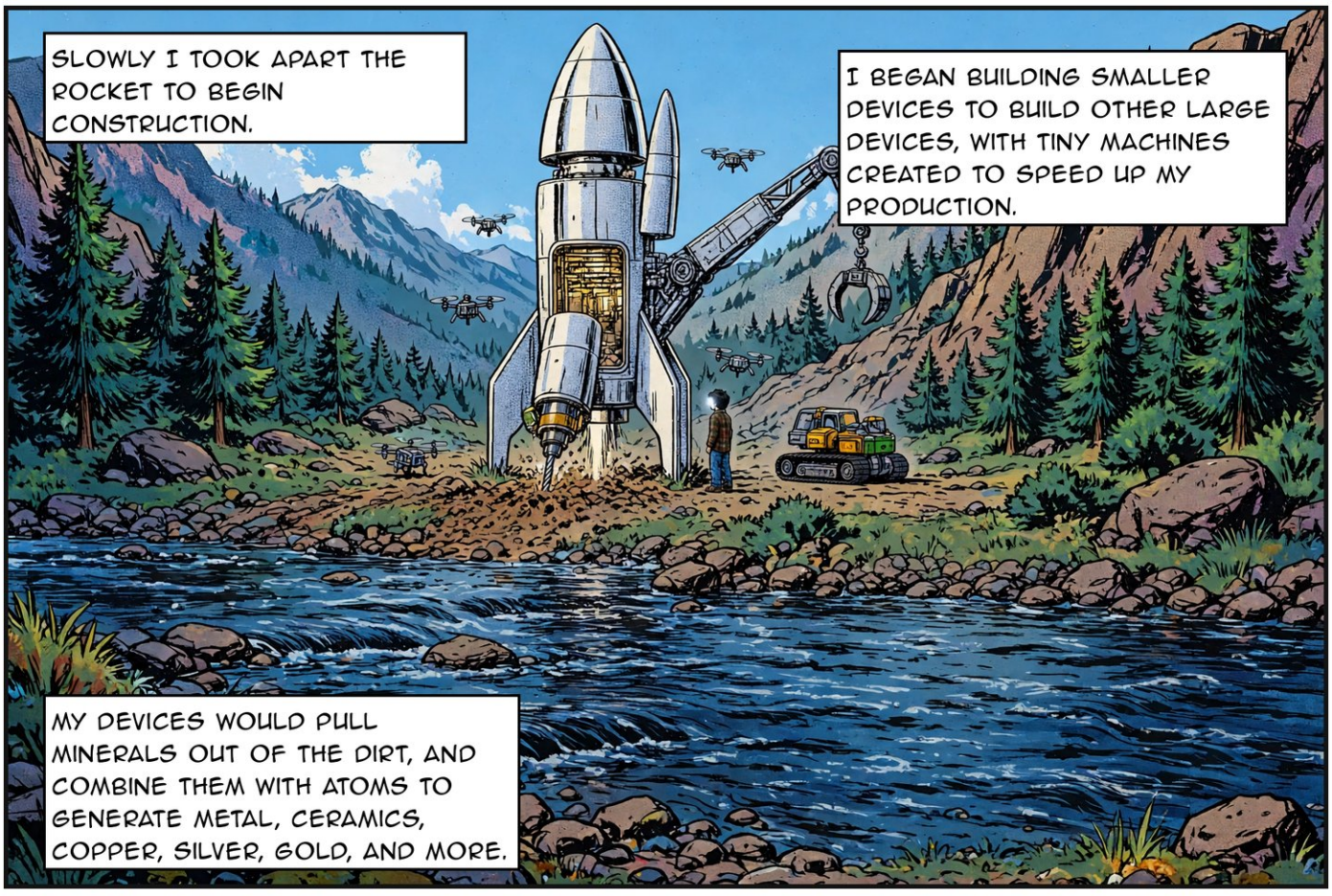

CHESTERLAND, OHIO -- 02:17 A.M. -- WOODED DRIVEWAY OFF SHADY LN
KID! BACK AWAY FROM THAT ALIEN DEVICE!
CHESTERLAND PD
POLICE
WHUP-WHUP-WHUP...

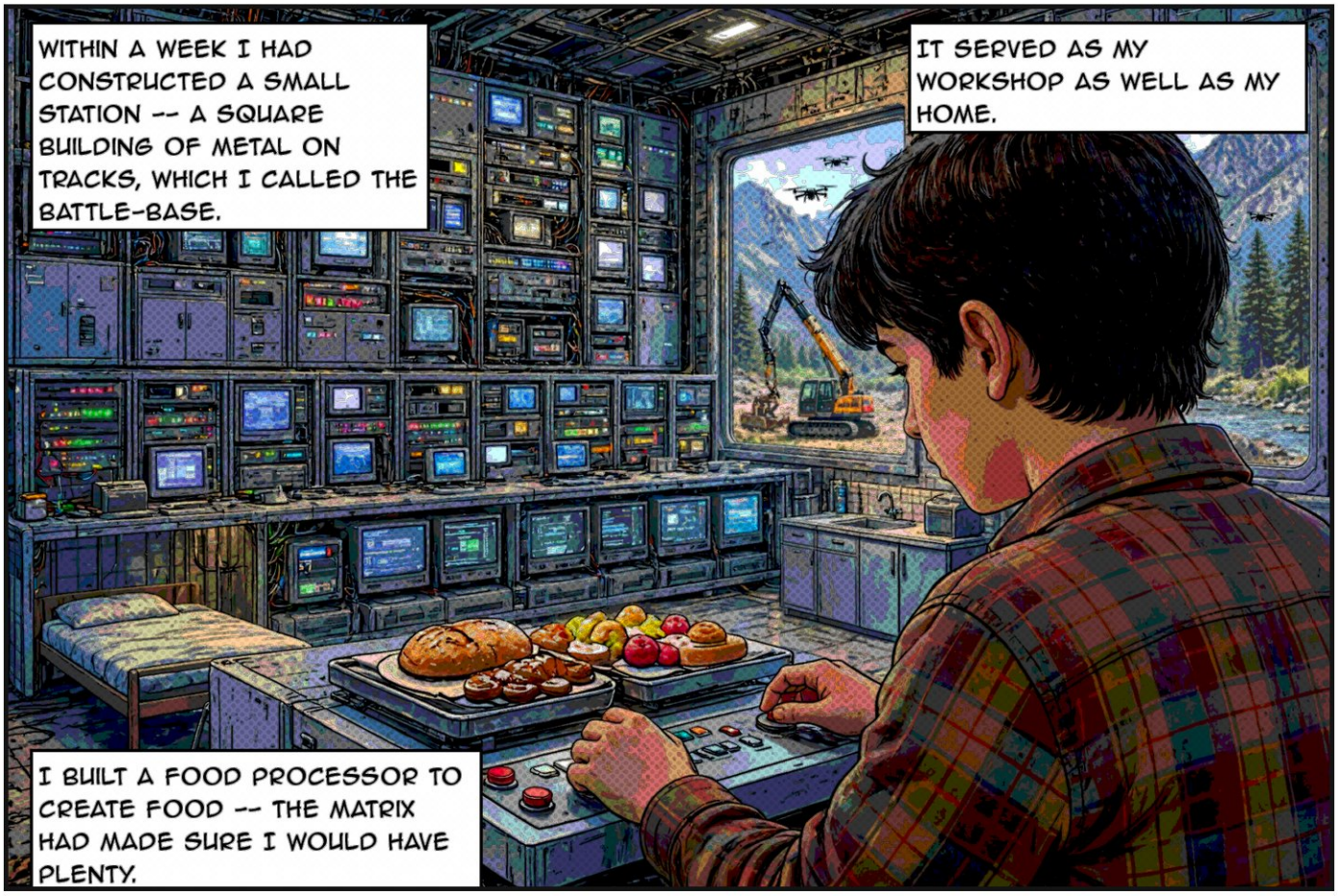

FROM THE BACK OF MY HOUSE, MY PARENTS AND SISTERS CAME OUTSIDE TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON, THE LOOK OF HORROR IN THEIR EYES...

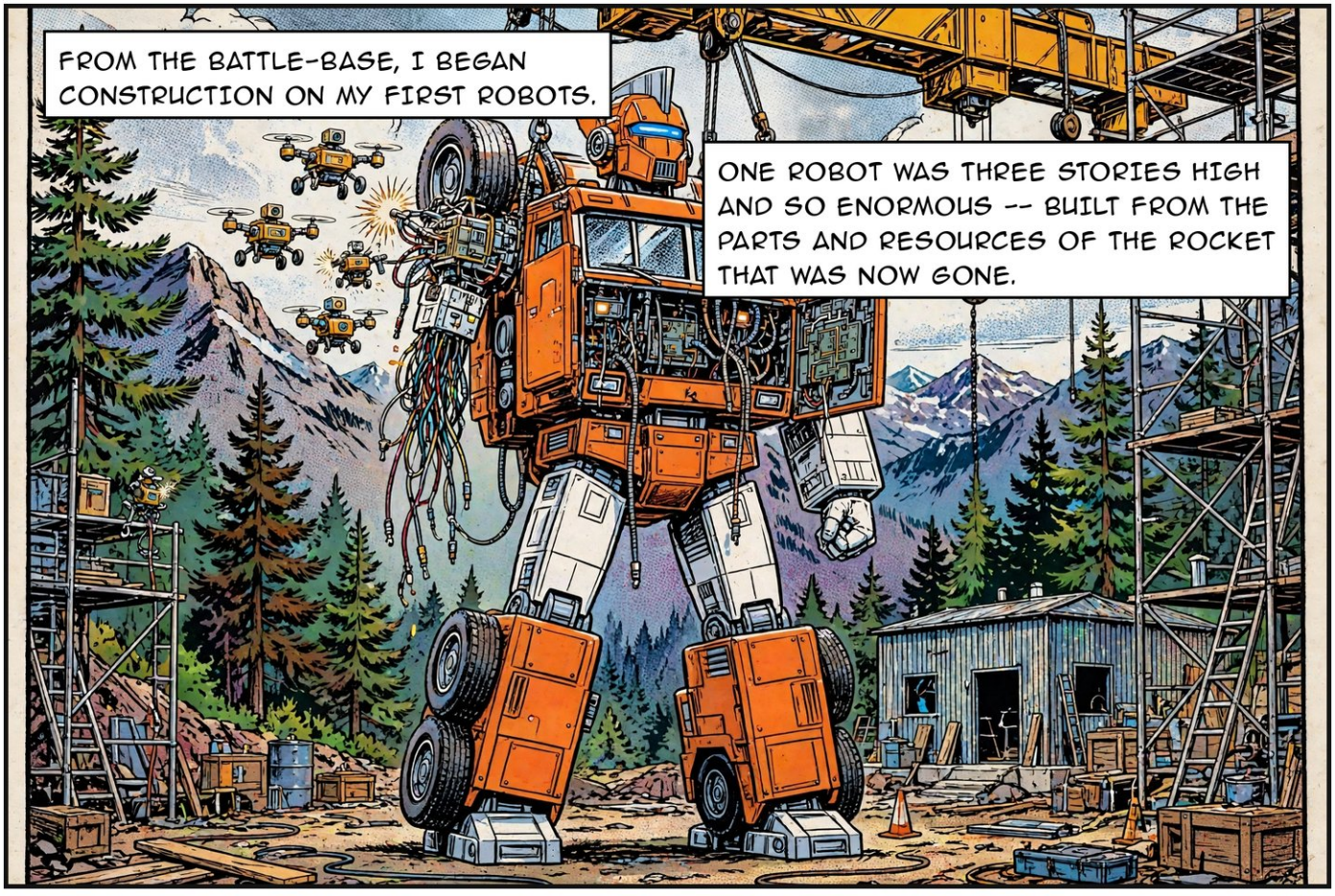

THE ROCKET BEGAN TO STIR AGAIN, AND A SMALL HATCH OPENED FROM THE SIDE.
INSTINCTIVELY I CLIMBED INSIDE AND SAT IN THE CONFINED CHAIR.

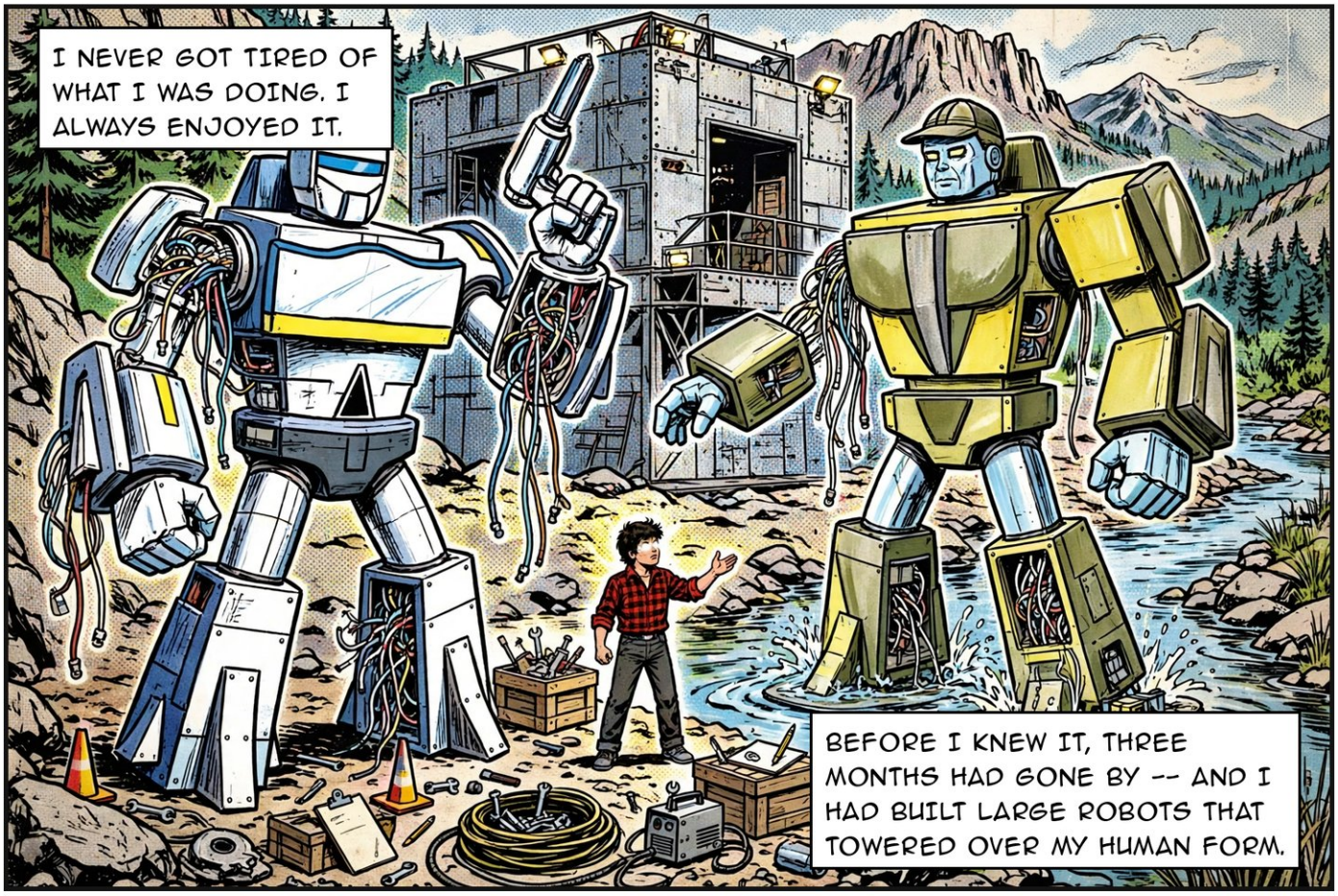

BEFORE I KNEW IT THE ROCKET WAS SHAKING AND SOON WAS IN THE AIR.
I WAS LEAVING MY HOME, MY FAMILY, AND EVERYTHING I HAD KNOWN.
NOT SURE WHERE I WAS GOING OR WHEN I WOULD BE BACK...

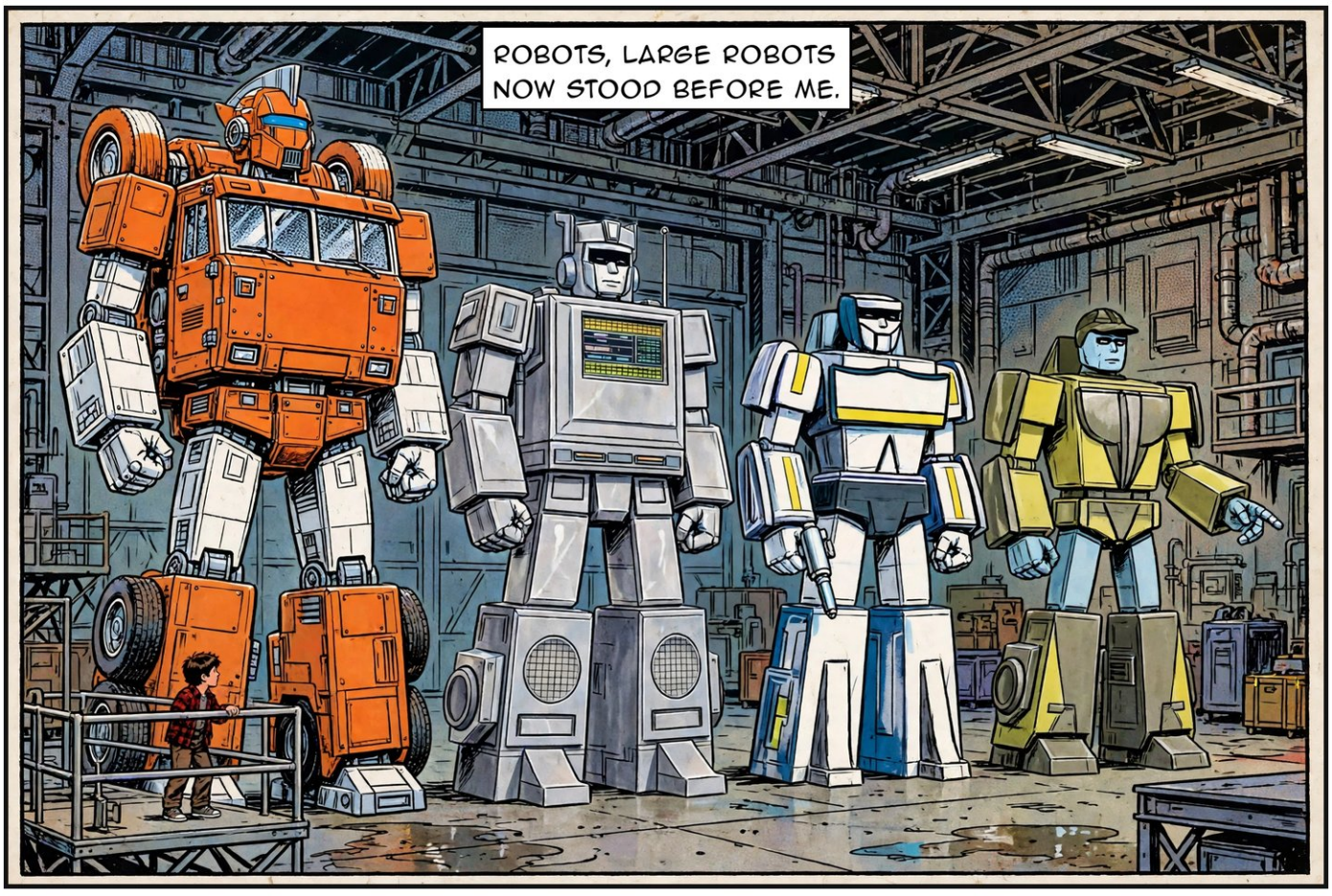

THE ROCKET LANDED IN AN EXTREMELY SECLUDED PART OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, NEXT TO A FLOWING RIVER.
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS HARD TO DESCRIBE. MY MIND WAS IN COMPLETE BUILD MODE -- LIKE A COMPLETE TRANCE, DEDICATED TO ONE SIMPLE TASK.
USING THE TOOLS I FOUND IN THE ROCKET, I BEGAN TO CREATE A MAKESHIFT BASE OF OPERATIONS.

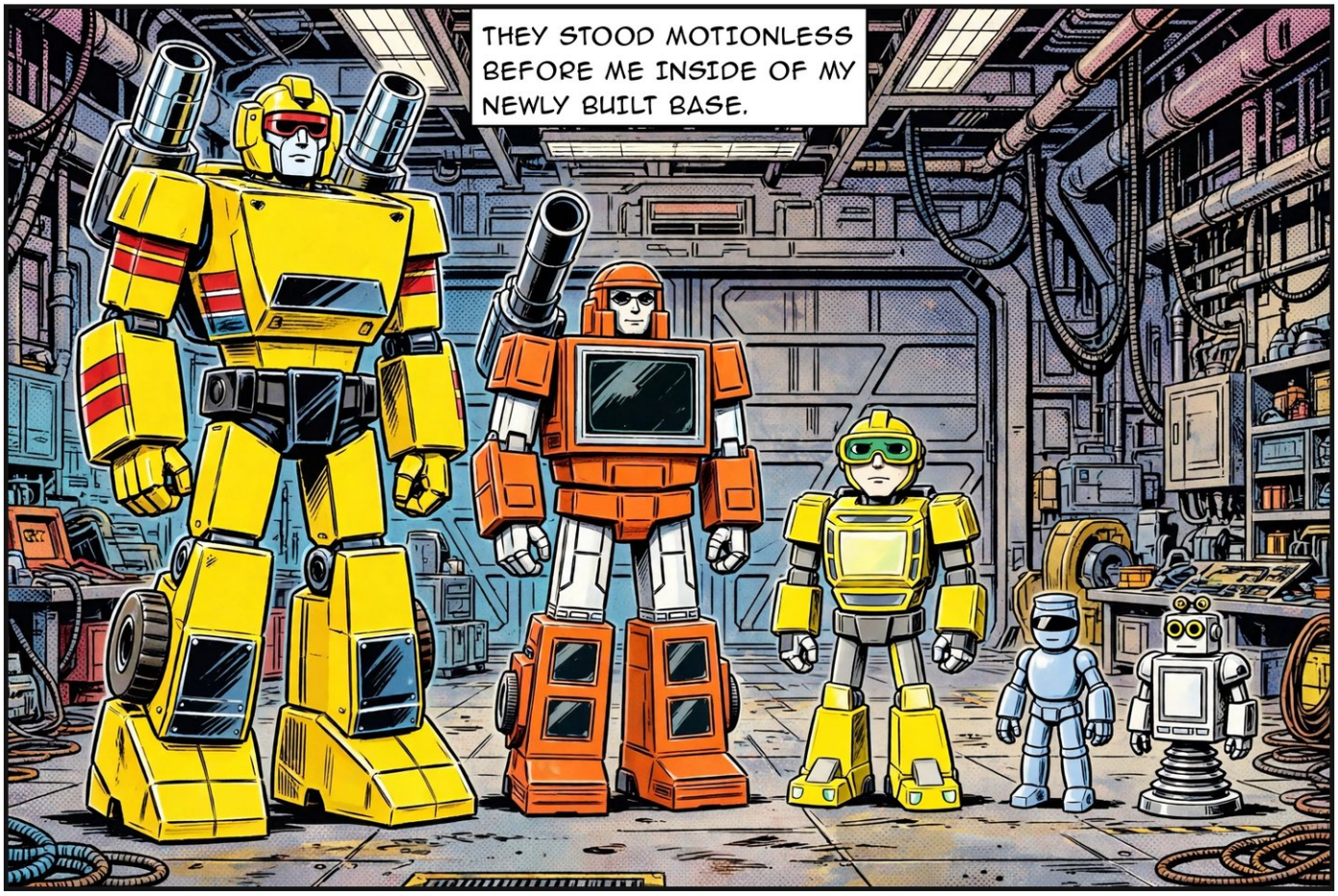

SLOWLY I TOOK APART THE ROCKET TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION.
I BEGAN BUILDING SMALLER DEVICES TO BUILD OTHER LARGE DEVICES, WITH TINY MACHINES CREATED TO SPEED UP MY PRODUCTION.
MY DEVICES WOULD PULL MINERALS OUT OF THE DIRT, AND COMBINE THEM WITH ATOMS TO GENERATE METAL, CERAMICS, COPPER, SILVER, GOLD, AND MORE.

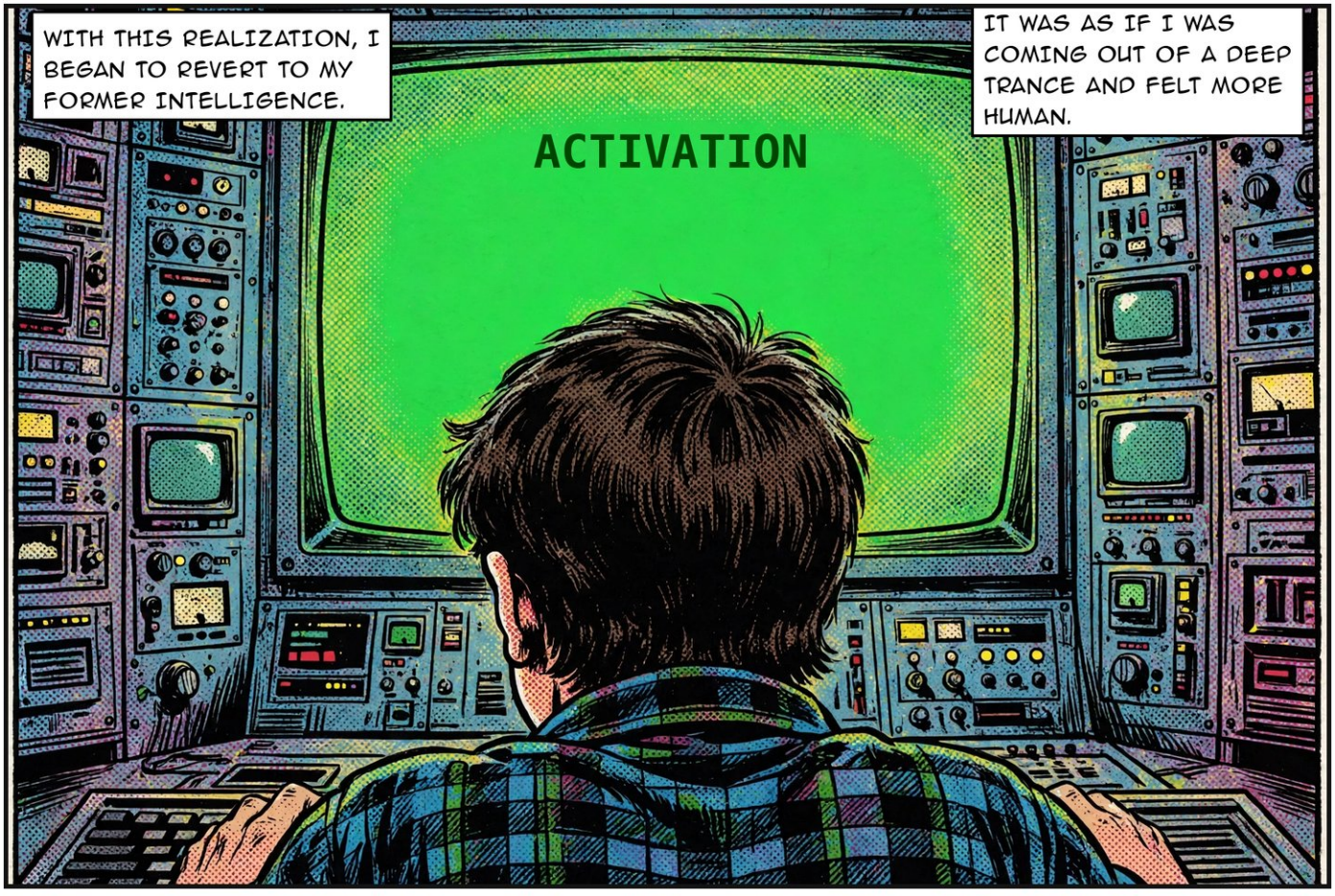

WITHIN A WEEK I HAD CONSTRUCTED A SMALL STATION -- A SQUARE BUILDING OF METAL ON TRACKS, WHICH I CALLED THE BATTLE-BASE.
IT SERVED AS MY WORKSHOP AS WELL AS MY HOME.
I BUILT A FOOD PROCESSOR TO CREATE FOOD -- THE MATRIX HAD MADE SURE I WOULD HAVE PLENTY.

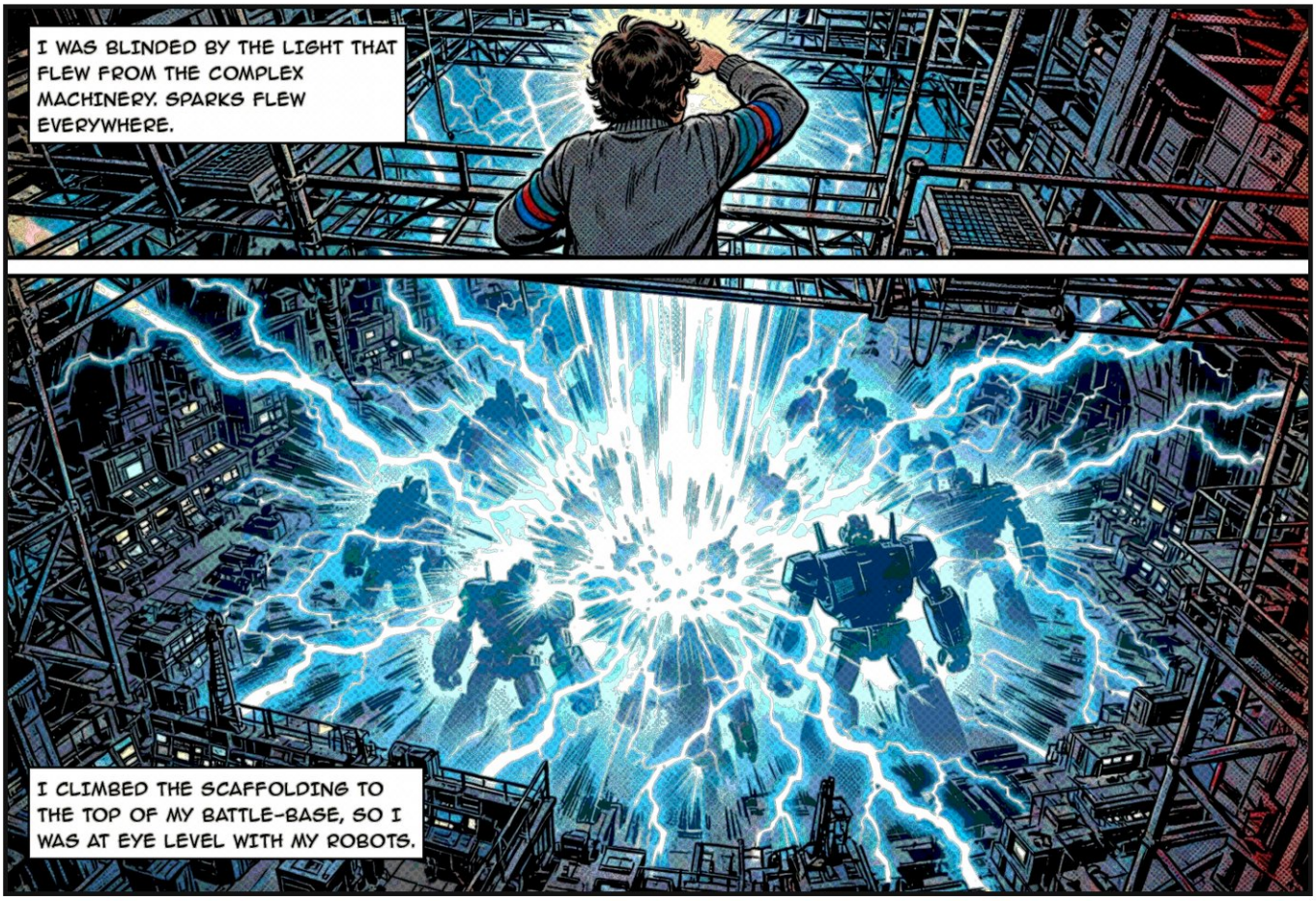

FROM THE BATTLE-BASE, I BEGAN CONSTRUCTION ON MY FIRST ROBOTS.
ONE ROBOT WAS THREE STORIES HIGH AND SO ENORMOUS -- BUILT FROM THE PARTS AND RESOURCES OF THE ROCKET THAT WAS NOW GONE.

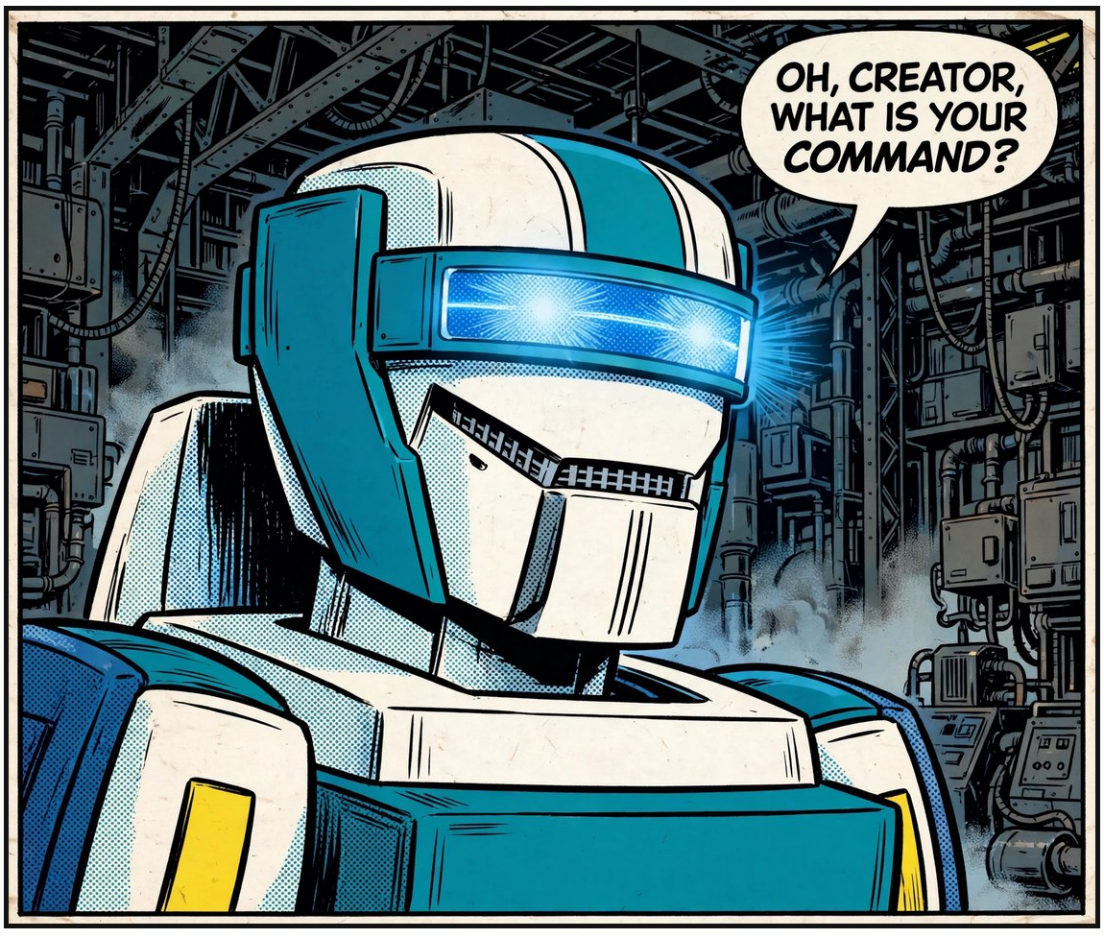

I NEVER GOT TIRED OF WHAT I WAS DOING. I ALWAYS ENJOYED IT.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, THREE MONTHS HAD GONE BY -- AND I HAD BUILT LARGE ROBOTS THAT TOWERED OVER MY HUMAN FORM.

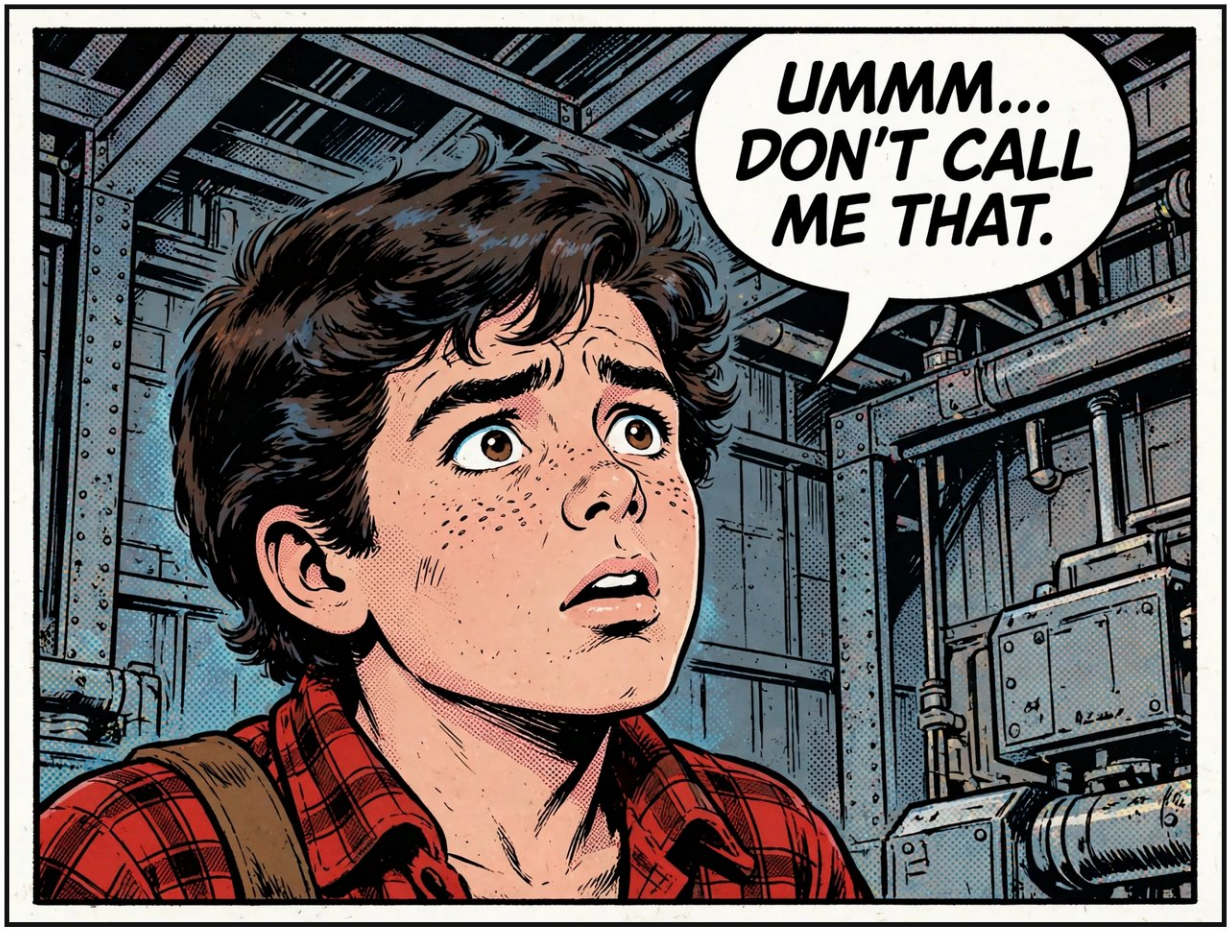

ROBOTS, LARGE ROBOTS NOW STOOD BEFORE ME.


THEY STOOD MOTIONLESS BEFORE ME INSIDE OF MY NEWLY BUILT BASE.

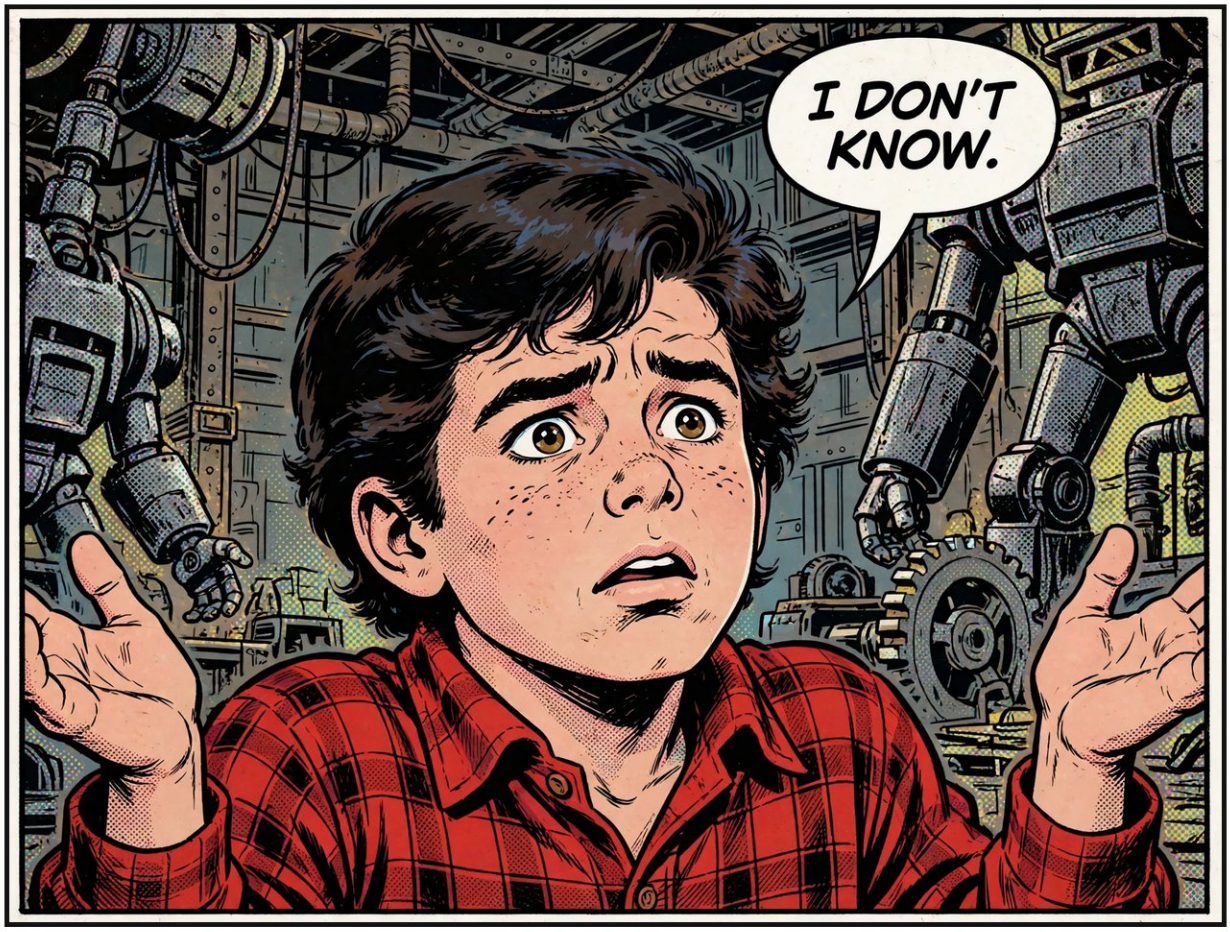

WITH THIS REALIZATION, I BEGAN TO REVERT TO MY FORMER INTELLIGENCE.
ACTIVATION
IT WAS AS IF I WAS COMING OUT OF A DEEP TRANCE AND FELT MORE HUMAN.


I WAS BLINDED BY THE LIGHT THAT FLEW FROM THE COMPLEX MACHINERY. SPARKS FLEW EVERYWHERE.
I CLIMBED THE SCAFFOLDING TO THE TOP OF MY BATTLE-BASE, SO I WAS AT EYE LEVEL WITH MY ROBOTS.

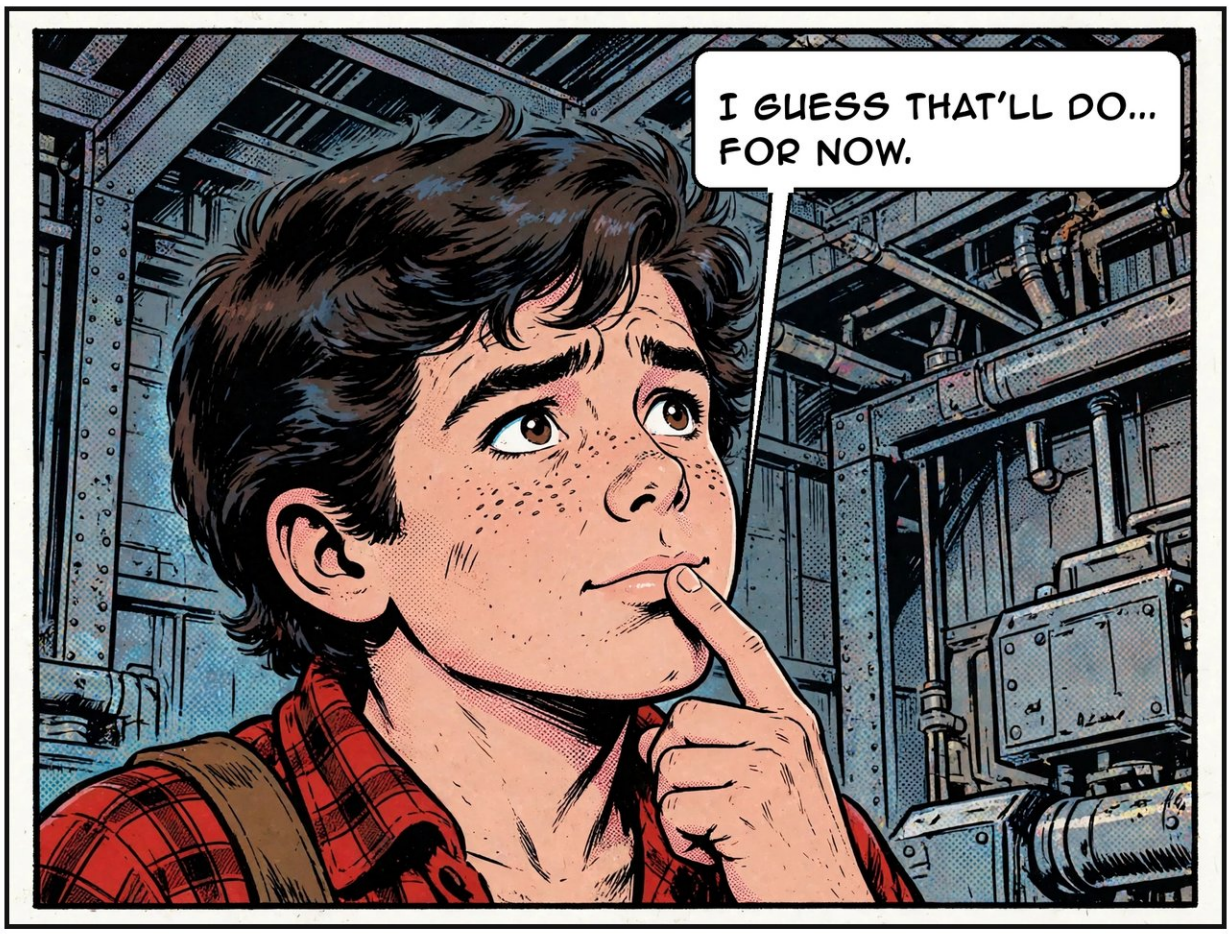

OH, CREATOR, WHAT IS YOUR COMMAND?


UMMM... DON'T CALL ME THAT.

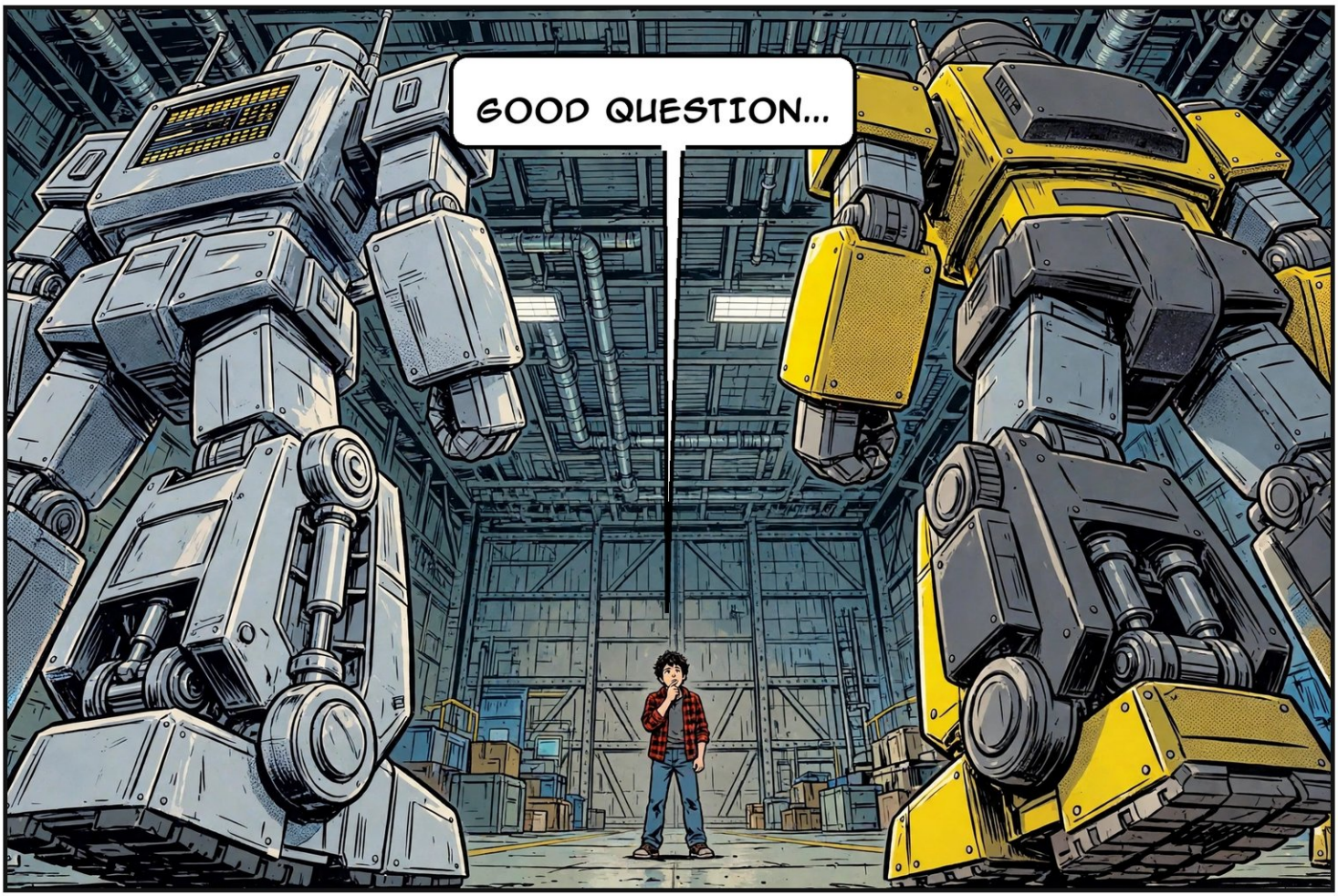

WELL, WHAT SHOULD WE CALL YOU?

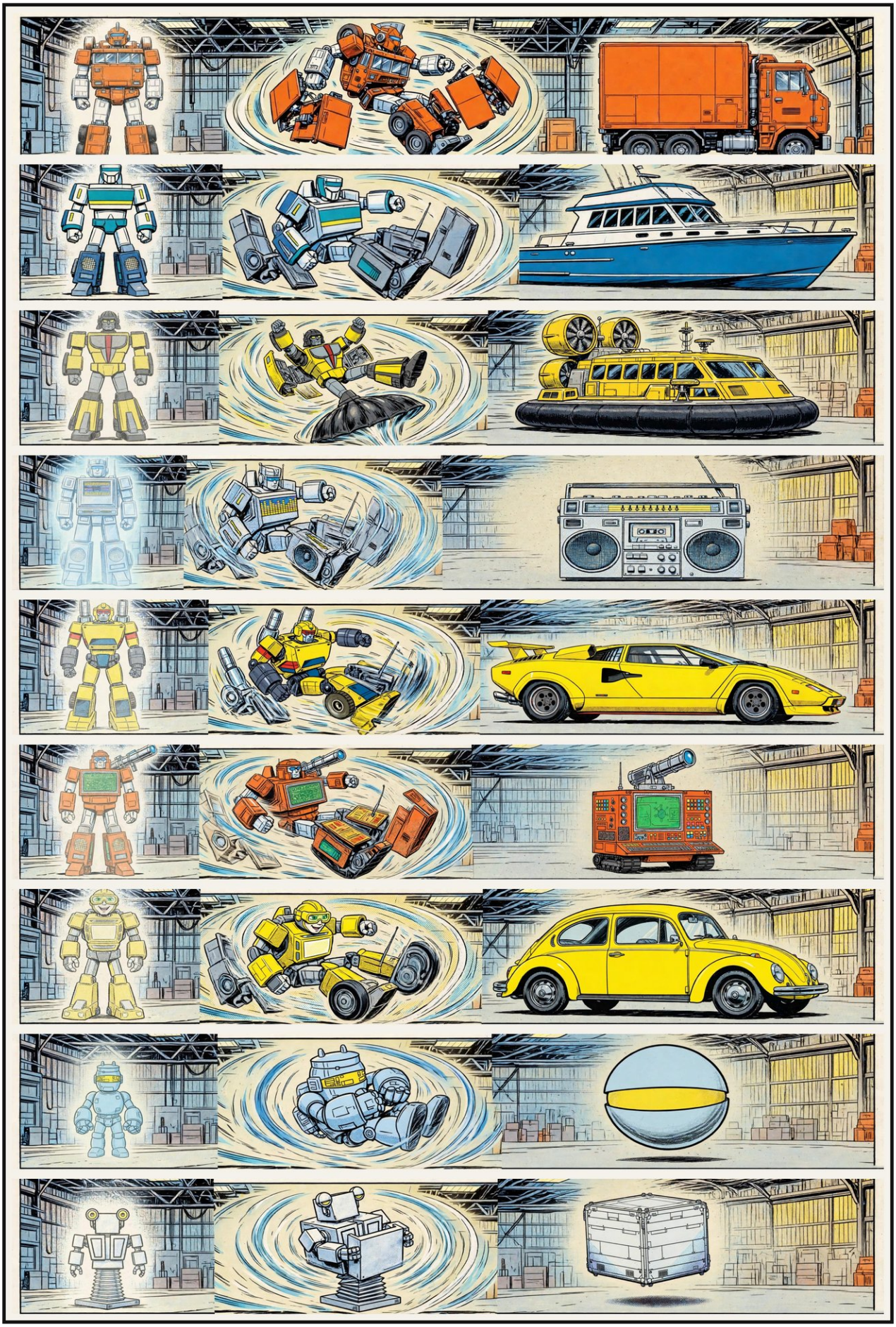

I DON'T KNOW.

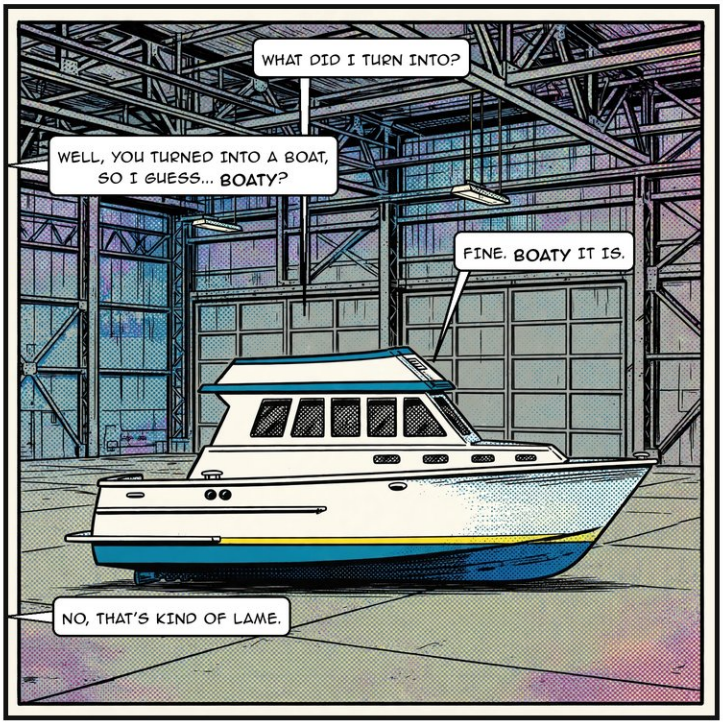

YOU ARE OUR CREATOR; THUS, WE SHOULD CALL YOU MASTER.

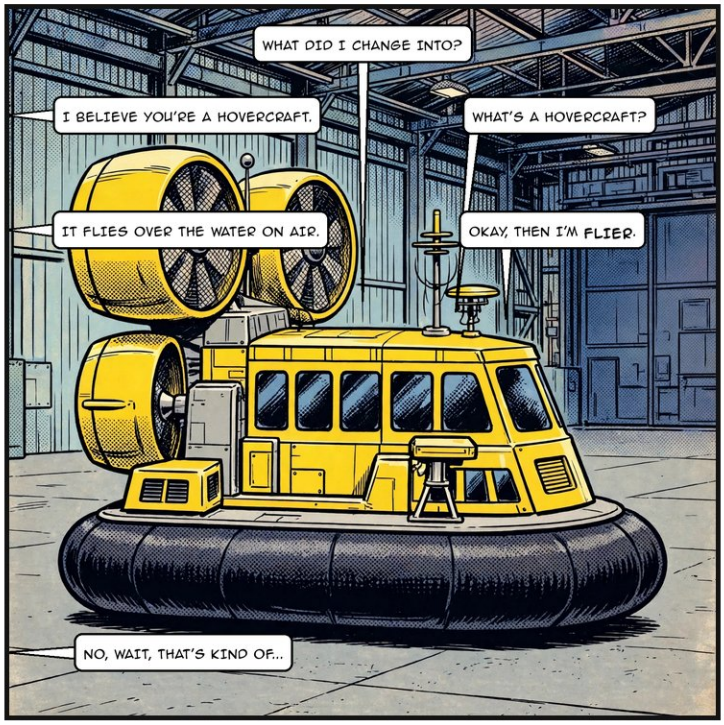

I GUESS THAT'LL DO... FOR NOW.

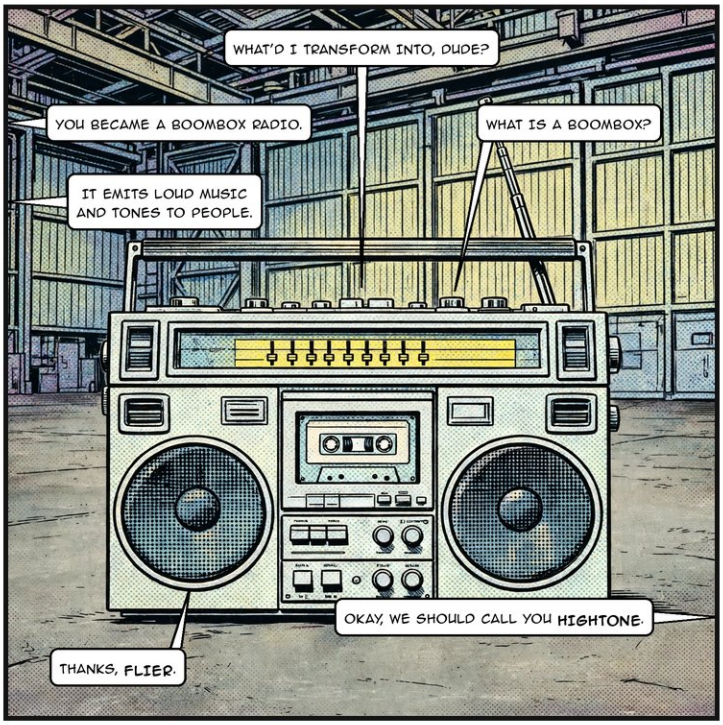

WE REQUIRE NAME DESIGNATIONS... WHAT SHALL YOU CALL US?

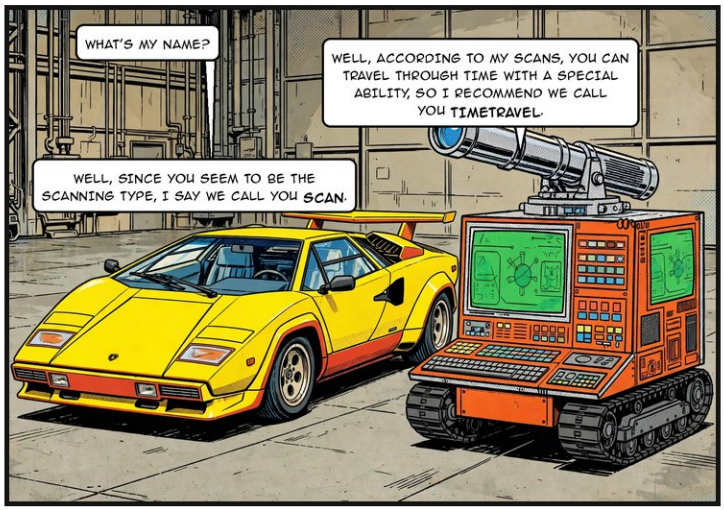

GOOD QUESTION...

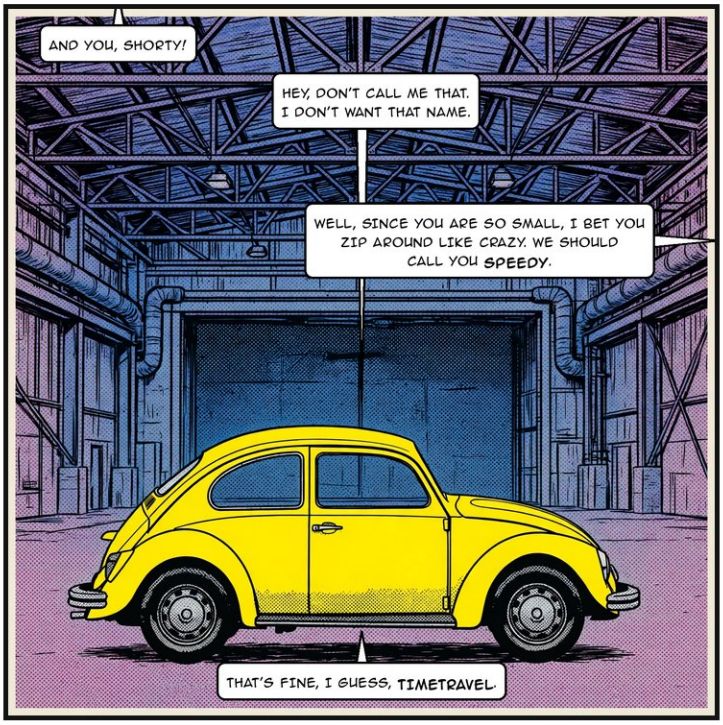


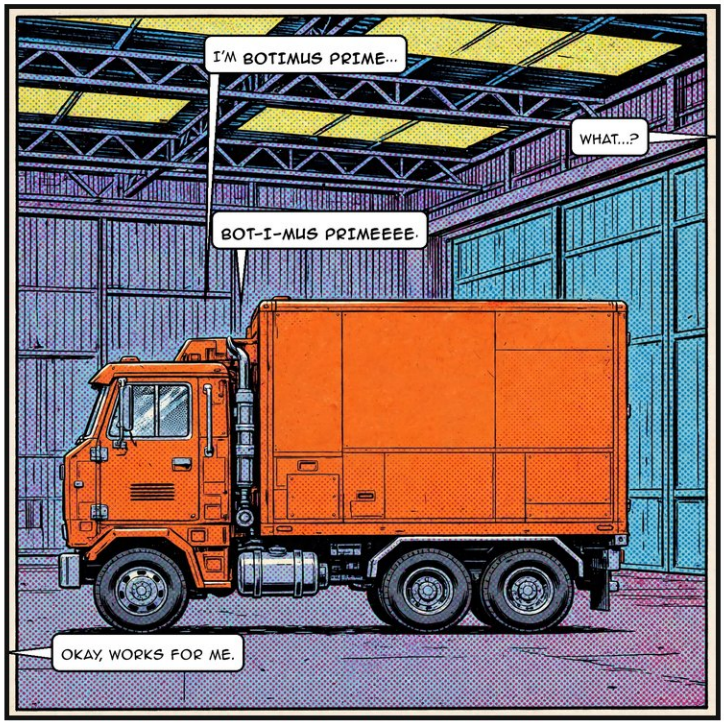

WHAT DID I TURN INTO?
WELL, YOU TURNED INTO A BOAT, SO I GUESS... BOATY?
FINE. BOATY IT IS.
NO, THAT'S KIND OF LAME.

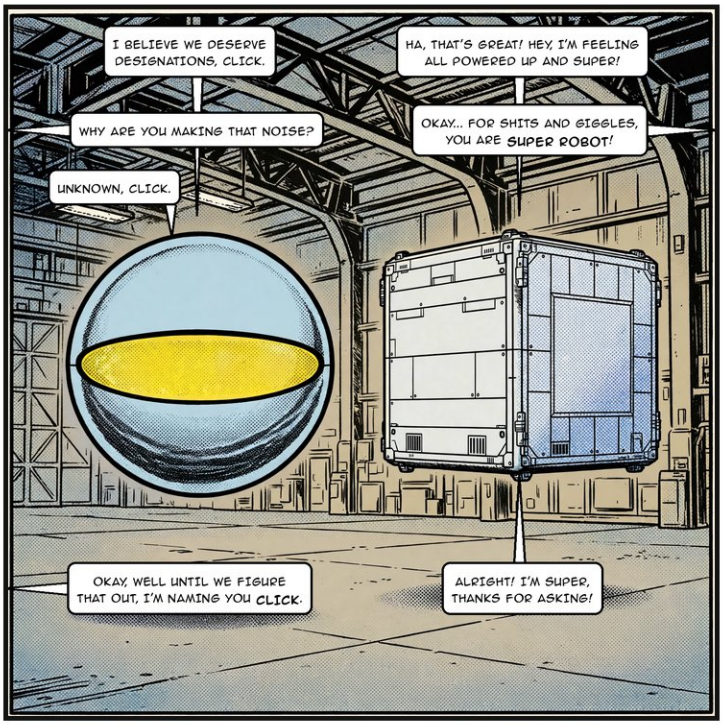

WHAT DID I CHANGE INTO?
I BELIEVE YOU'RE A HOVERCRAFT.
WHAT'S A HOVERCRAFT?
IT FLIES OVER THE WATER ON AIR.
OKAY, THEN I'M FLIER.
NO, WAIT, THAT'S KIND OF...


WHAT'D I TRANSFORM INTO, DUDE?
YOU BECAME A BOOMBOX RADIO.
WHAT IS A BOOMBOX?
IT EMITS LOUD MUSIC AND TONES TO PEOPLE.
OKAY, WE SHOULD CALL YOU HIGHTONE.
THANKS, FLIER.

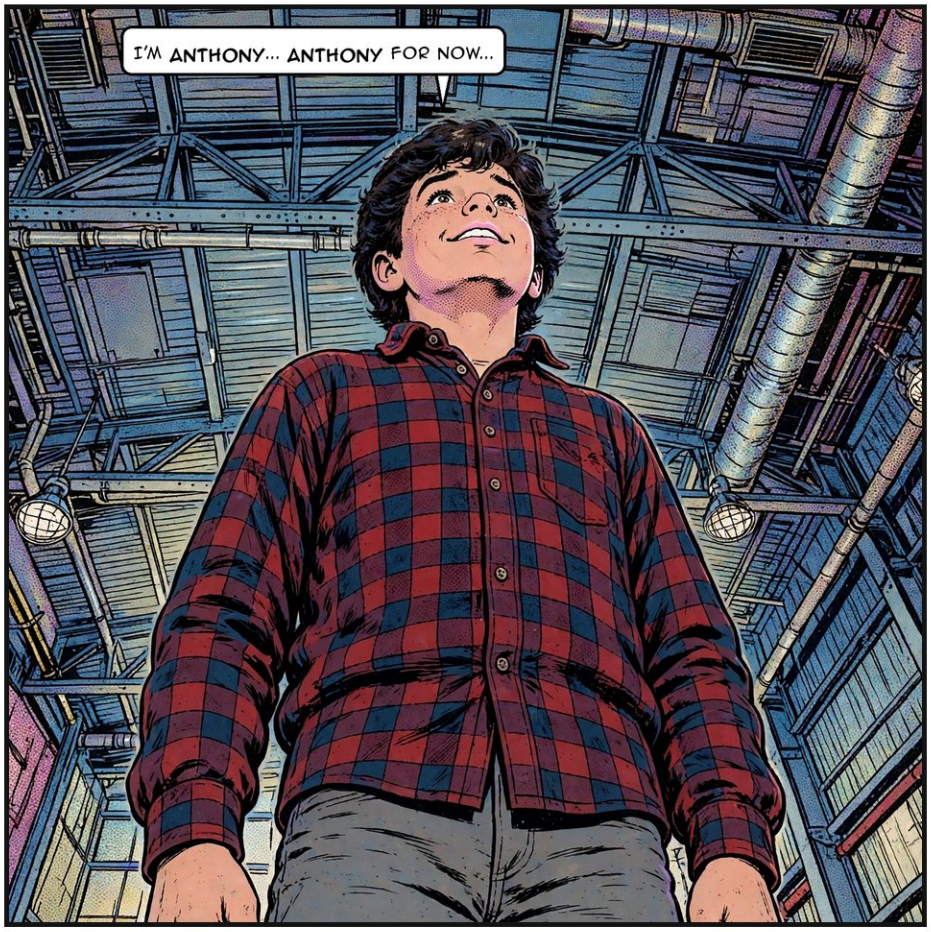

WHAT'S MY NAME?
WELL, ACCORDING TO MY SCANS, YOU CAN TRAVEL THROUGH TIME WITH A SPECIAL ABILITY, SO I RECOMMEND WE CALL YOU TIMETRAVEL.
WELL, SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE THE SCANNING TYPE, I SAY WE CALL YOU SCAN.

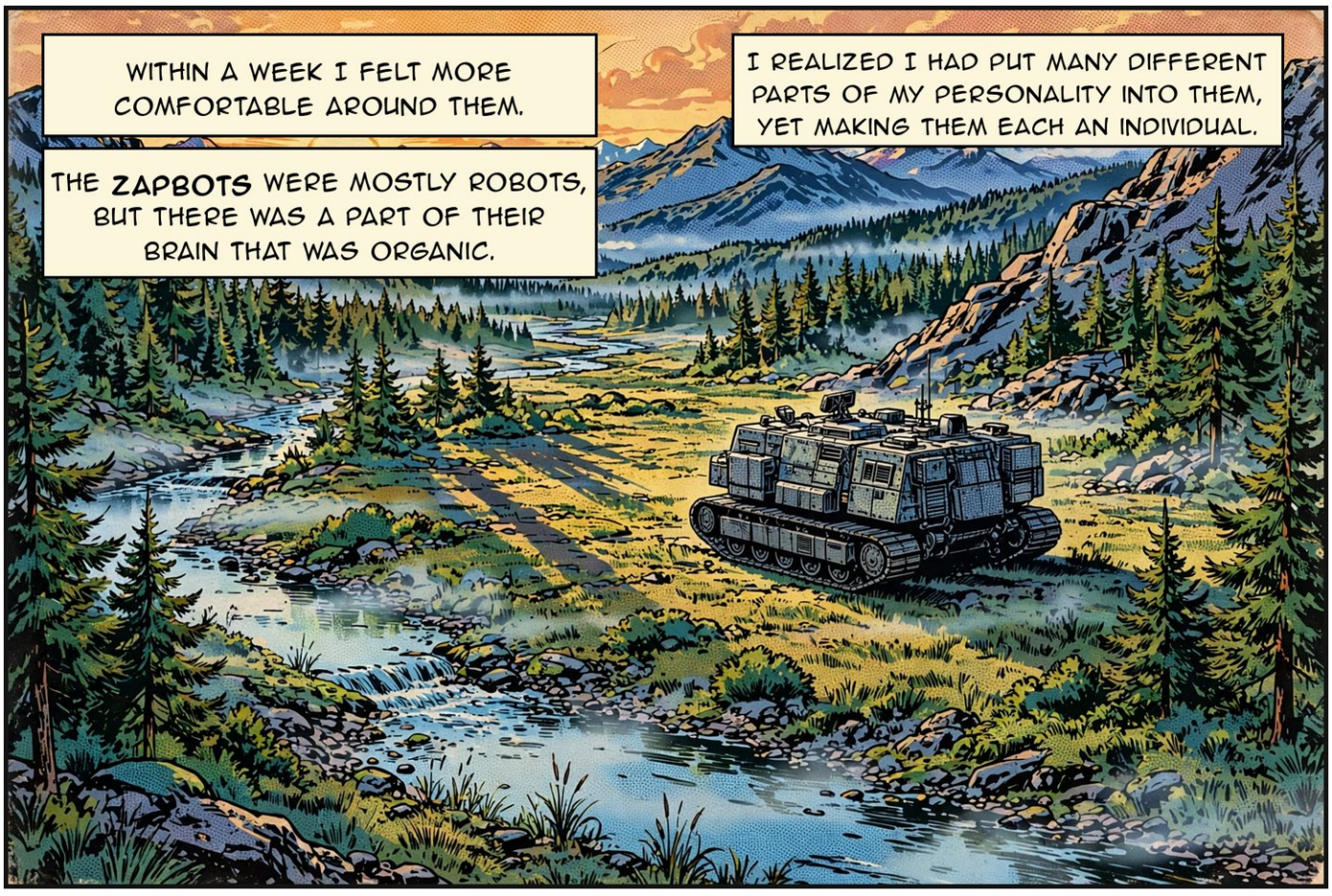

AND YOU, SHORTY!
HEY, DON'T CALL ME THAT. I DON'T WANT THAT NAME.
WELL, SINCE YOU ARE SO SMALL, I BET YOU ZIP AROUND LIKE CRAZY. WE SHOULD CALL YOU SPEEDY.
THAT'S FINE, I GUESS, TIMETRAVEL.

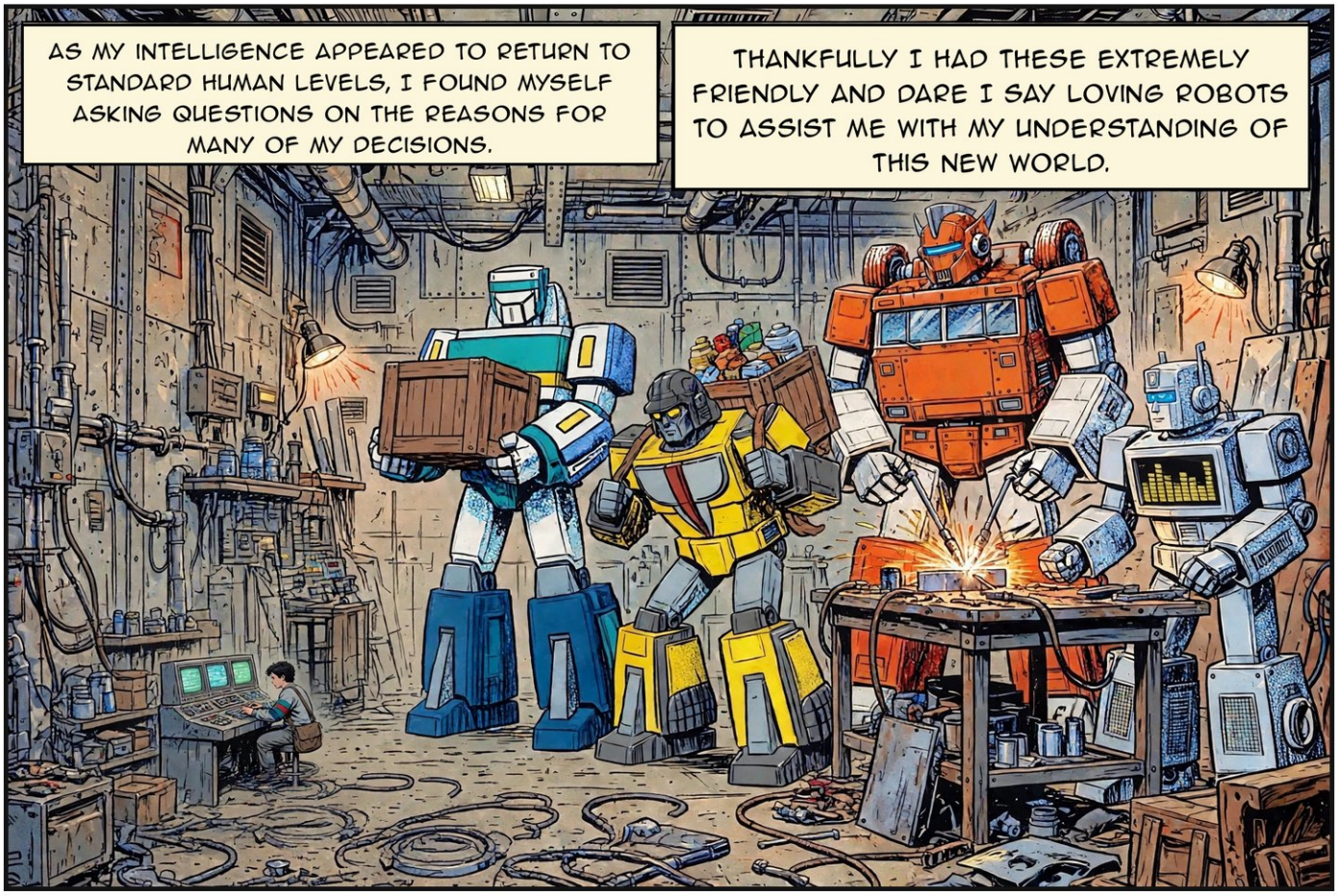

I'M BOTIMUS PRIME...
WHAT...?
BOT-I-MUS PRIMEEEE.
OKAY, WORKS FOR ME.

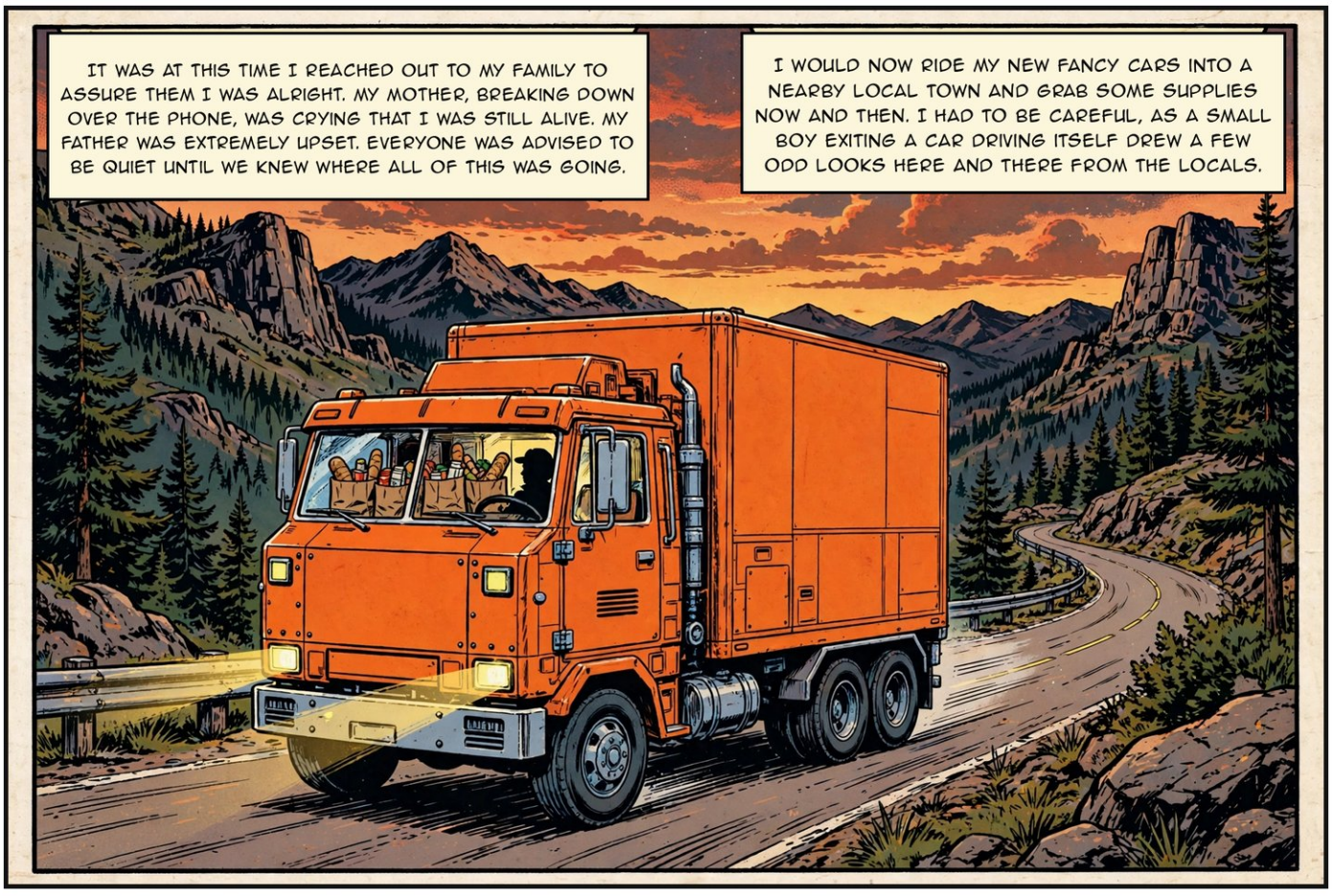

I BELIEVE WE DESERVE DESIGNATIONS, CLICK.
HA, THAT'S GREAT! HEY, I'M FEELING ALL POWERED UP AND SUPER!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT NOISE?
OKAY... FOR SHITS AND GIGGLES, YOU ARE SUPER ROBOT!
UNKNOWN, CLICK.
OKAY, WELL UNTIL WE FIGURE THAT OUT, I'M NAMING YOU CLICK.
ALRIGHT! I'M SUPER, THANKS FOR ASKING!

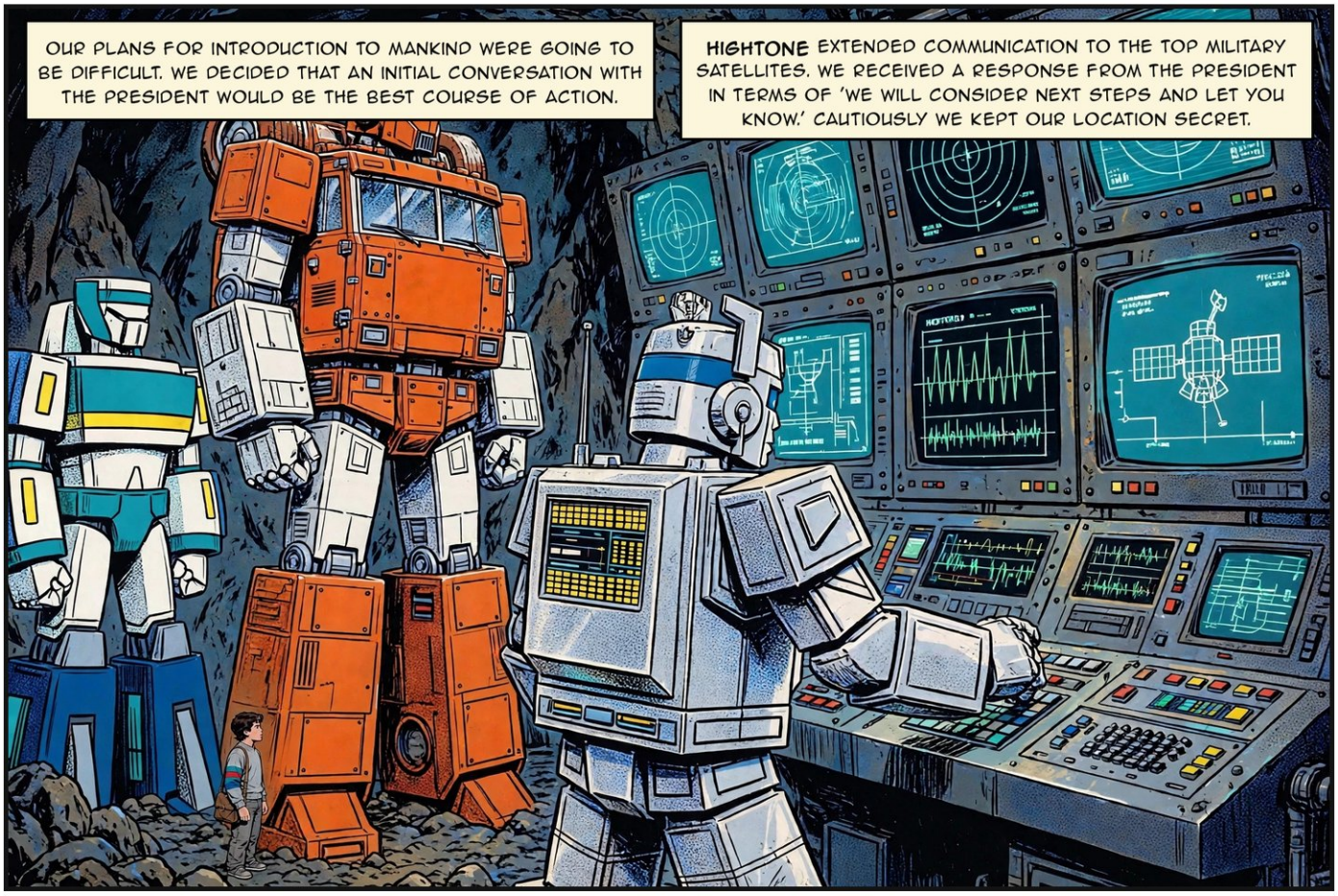

AND WHAT IS YOUR DESIGNATION, MASTER?

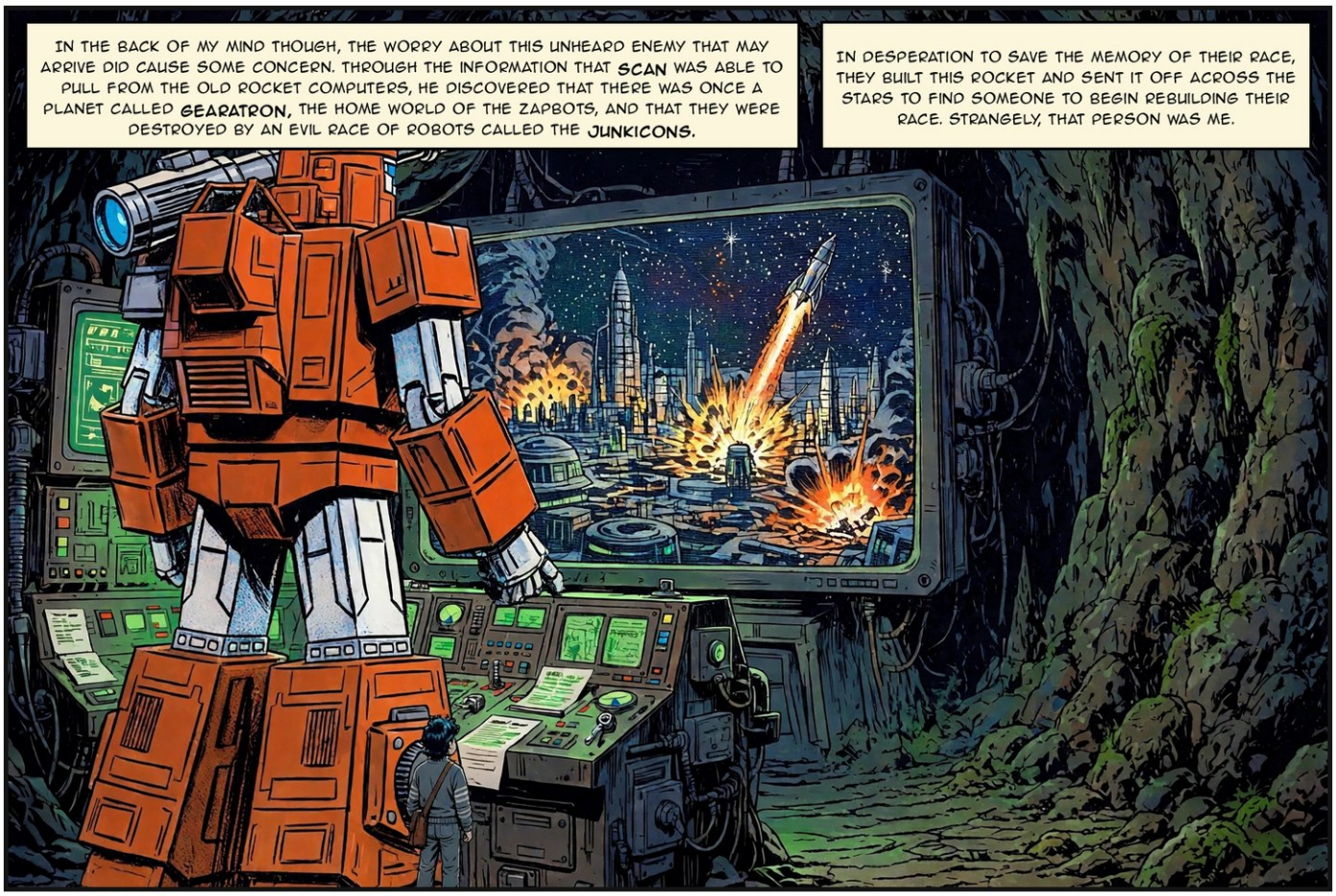

I'M ANTHONY... ANTHONY FOR NOW...

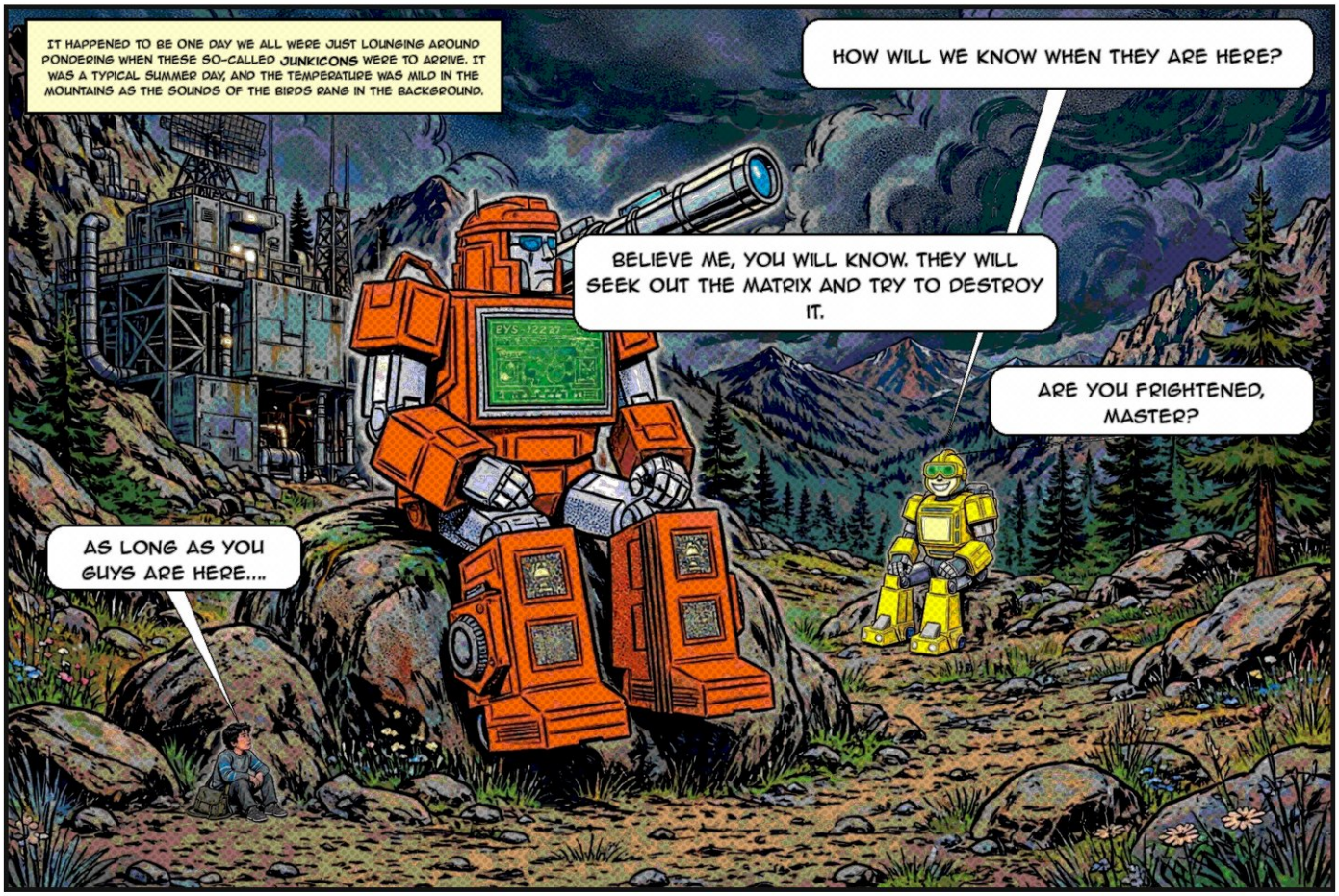

WITHIN A WEEK I FELT MORE COMFORTABLE AROUND THEM.
I REALIZED I HAD PUT MANY DIFFERENT PARTS OF MY PERSONALITY INTO THEM, YET MAKING THEM EACH AN INDIVIDUAL.
THE ZAPBOTS WERE MOSTLY ROBOTS, BUT THERE WAS A PART OF THEIR BRAIN THAT WAS ORGANIC.

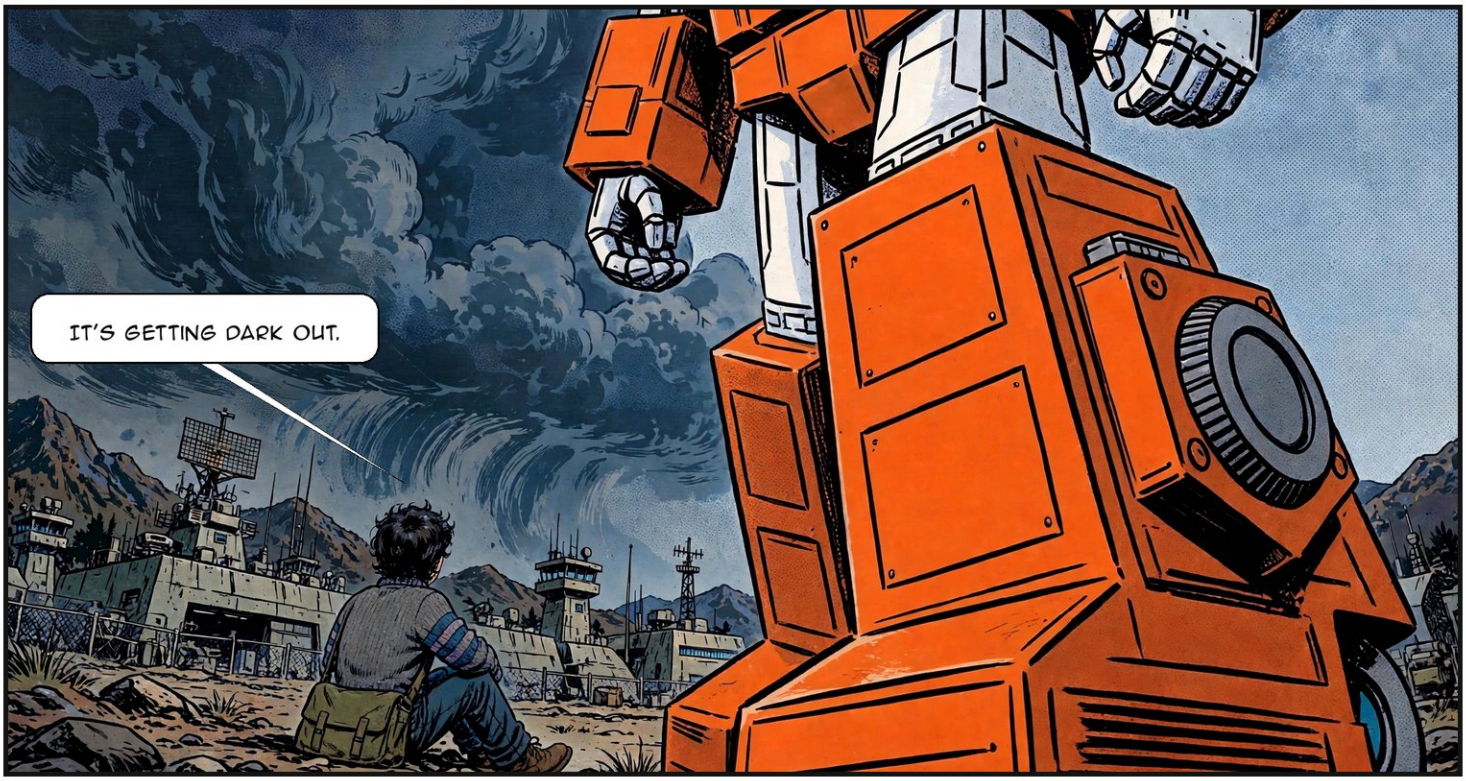

AS MY INTELLIGENCE APPEARED TO RETURN TO STANDARD HUMAN LEVELS, I FOUND MYSELF ASKING QUESTIONS ON THE REASONS FOR MANY OF MY DECISIONS.
THANKFULLY I HAD THESE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND DARE I SAY LOVING ROBOTS TO ASSIST ME WITH MY UNDERSTANDING OF THIS NEW WORLD.


IT WAS AT THIS TIME I REACHED OUT TO MY FAMILY TO ASSURE THEM I WAS ALRIGHT. MY MOTHER, BREAKING DOWN OVER THE PHONE, WAS CRYING THAT I WAS STILL ALIVE. MY FATHER WAS EXTREMELY UPSET. EVERYONE WAS ADVISED TO BE QUIET UNTIL WE KNEW WHERE ALL OF THIS WAS GOING.
I WOULD NOW RIDE MY NEW FANCY CARS INTO A NEARBY LOCAL TOWN AND GRAB SOME SUPPLIES NOW AND THEN. I HAD TO BE CAREFUL, AS A SMALL BOY EXITING A CAR DRIVING ITSELF DREW A FEW ODD LOOKS HERE AND THERE FROM THE LOCALS.

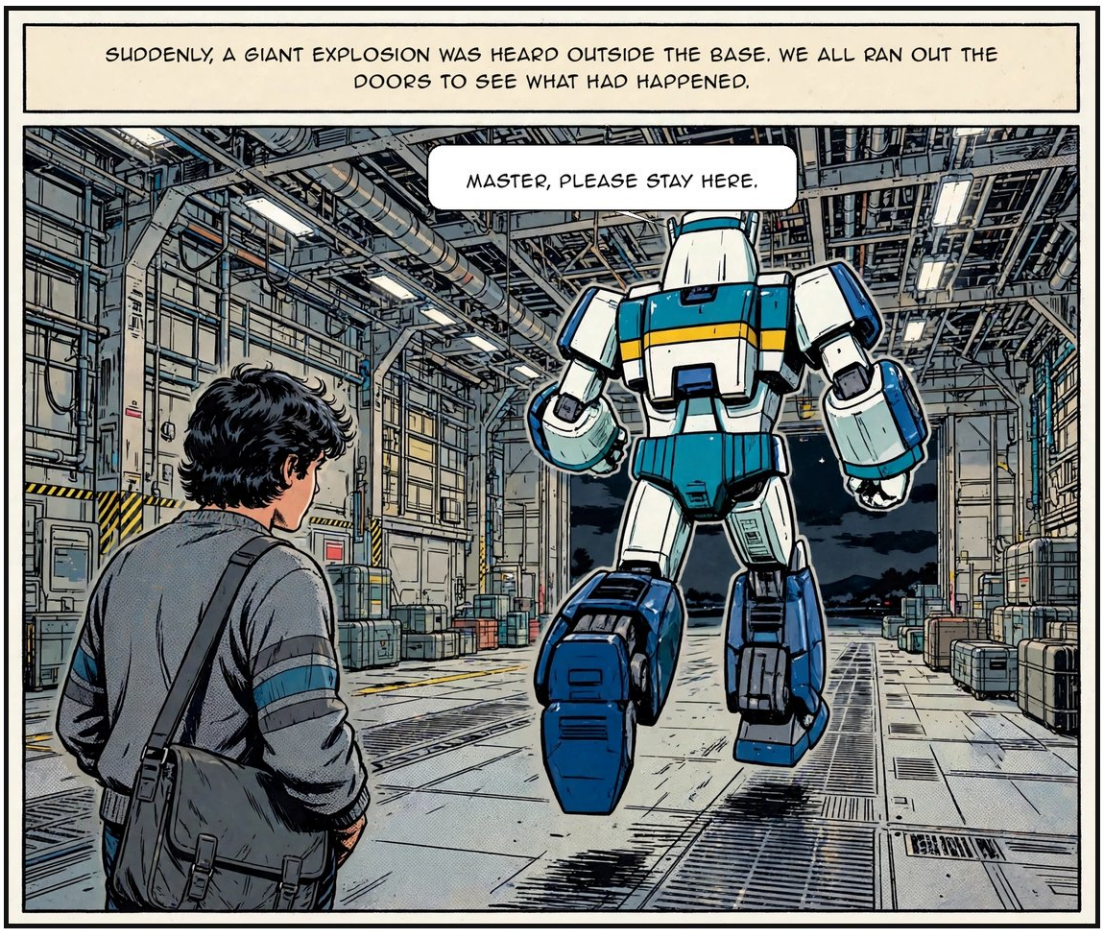

OUR PLANS FOR INTRODUCTION TO MANKIND WERE GOING TO BE DIFFICULT. WE DECIDED THAT AN INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.
HIGHTONE EXTENDED COMMUNICATION TO THE TOP MILITARY SATELLITES. WE RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE PRESIDENT IN TERMS OF 'WE WILL CONSIDER NEXT STEPS AND LET YOU KNOW.' CAUTIOUSLY WE KEPT OUR LOCATION SECRET.


IN THE BACK OF MY MIND THOUGH, THE WORRY ABOUT THIS UNHEARD ENEMY THAT MAY ARRIVE DID CAUSE SOME CONCERN. THROUGH THE INFORMATION THAT **SCAN** WAS ABLE TO PULL FROM THE OLD ROCKET COMPUTERS, HE DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS ONCE A PLANET CALLED **GEARATRON,** THE HOME WORLD OF THE ZAPBOTS, AND THAT THEY WERE DESTROYED BY AN EVIL RACE OF ROBOTS CALLED THE **JUNKICONS.**
IN DESPERATION TO SAVE THE MEMORY OF THEIR RACE, THEY BUILT THIS ROCKET AND SENT IT OFF ACROSS THE STARS TO FIND SOMEONE TO BEGIN REBUILDING THEIR RACE. STRANGELY, THAT PERSON WAS ME.

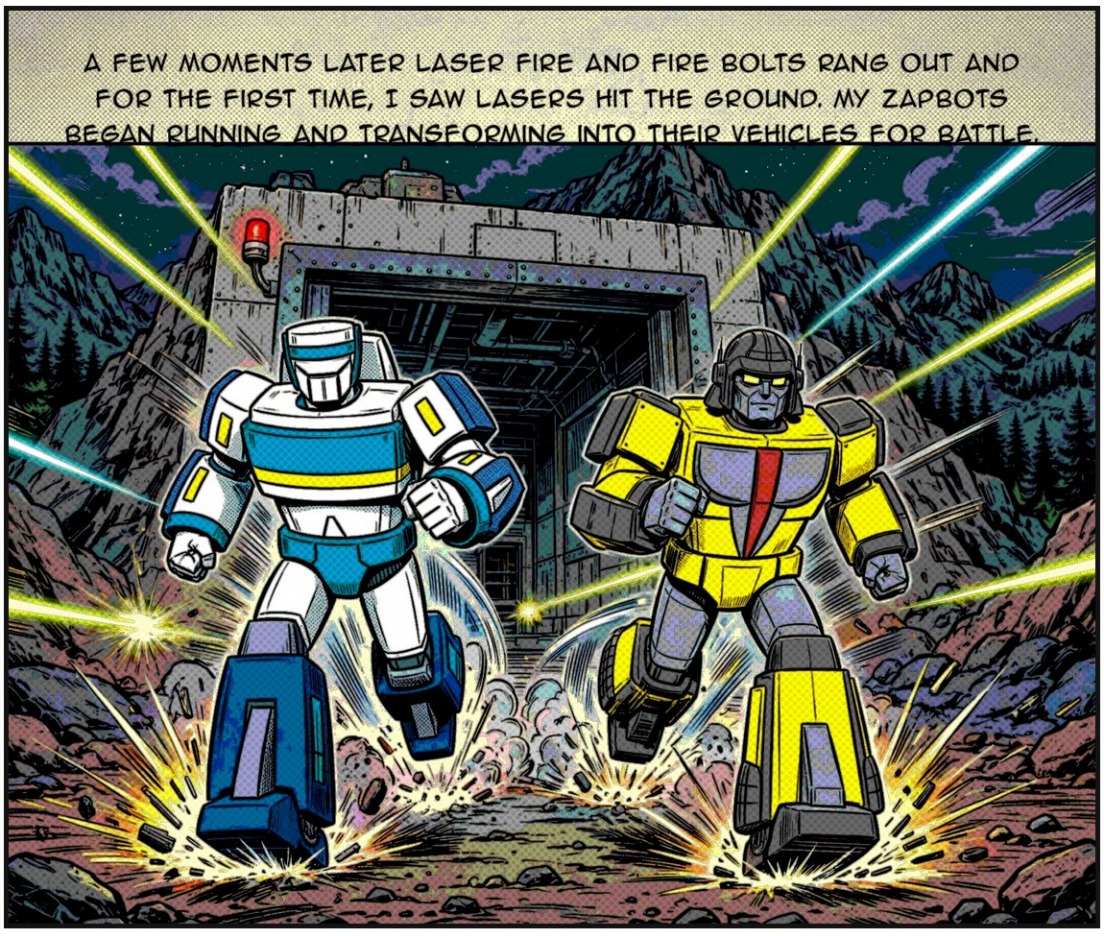

IT HAPPENED TO BE ONE DAY WE ALL WERE JUST LOUNGING AROUND PONDERING WHEN THESE SO-CALLED JUNKICONS WERE TO ARRIVE. IT WAS A TYPICAL SUMMER DAY, AND THE TEMPERATURE WAS MILD IN THE MOUNTAINS AS THE SOUNDS OF THE BIRDS RANG IN THE BACKGROUND.
HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN THEY ARE HERE?
BELIEVE ME, YOU WILL KNOW. THEY WILL SEEK OUT THE MATRIX AND TRY TO DESTROY IT.
ARE YOU FRIGHTENED, MASTER?
AS LONG AS YOU GUYS ARE HERE....


IT'S GETTING DARK OUT.

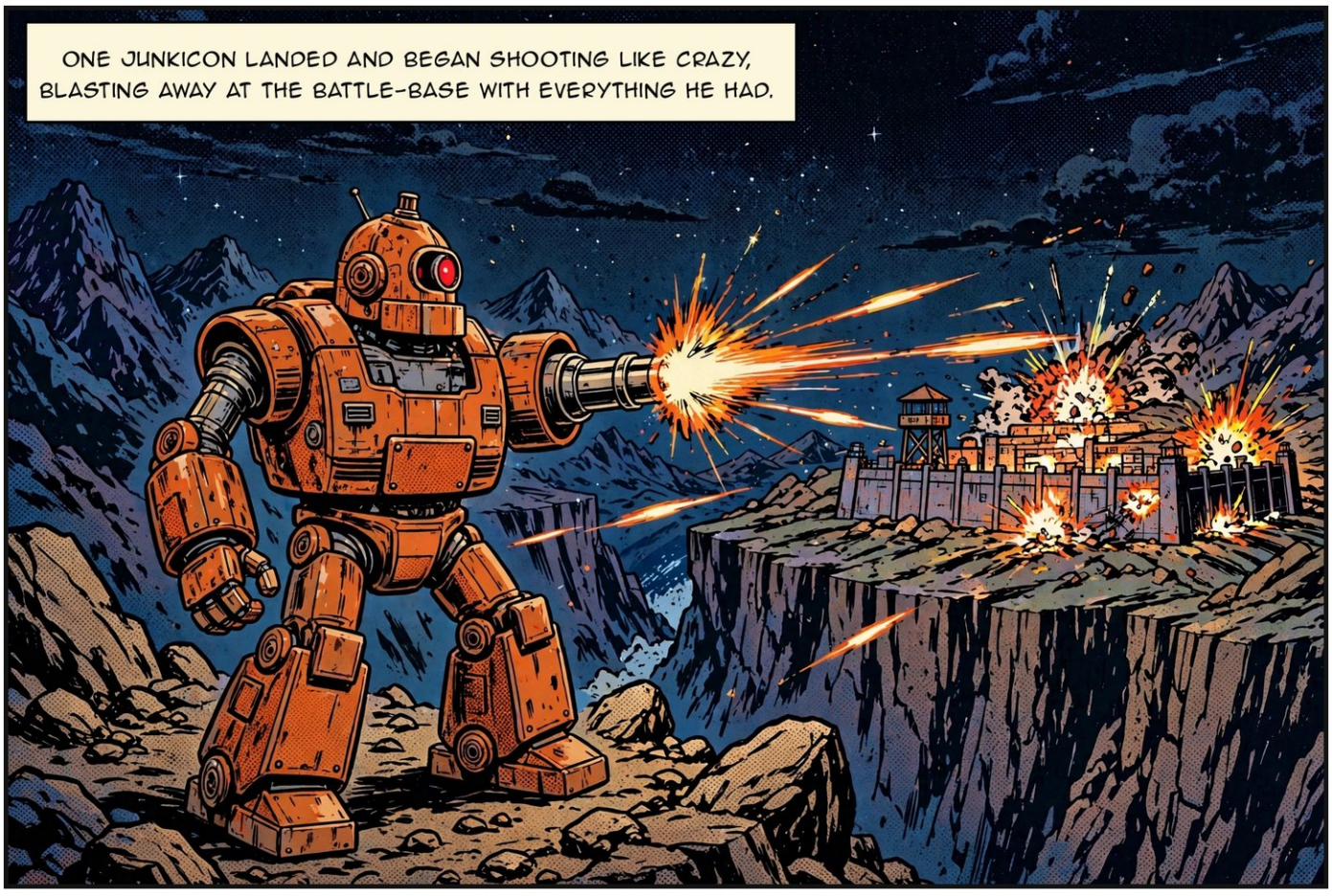

IN THE DISTANCE FAR ABOVE THE HORIZON, SMALL SPECKS BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARDS US, AND SLOWLY AS THEY GREW, I COULD SEE THEM AS FIGURES. VARIOUS ROBOTS OF DIFFERENT SORTS, MADE OF STRANGE METALLIC FORMATIONS.
AS THEY FLEW CLOSER, I KNEW WHO THEY WERE, AND UTTER FEAR DISPENSED ITSELF INSIDE MY BODY.

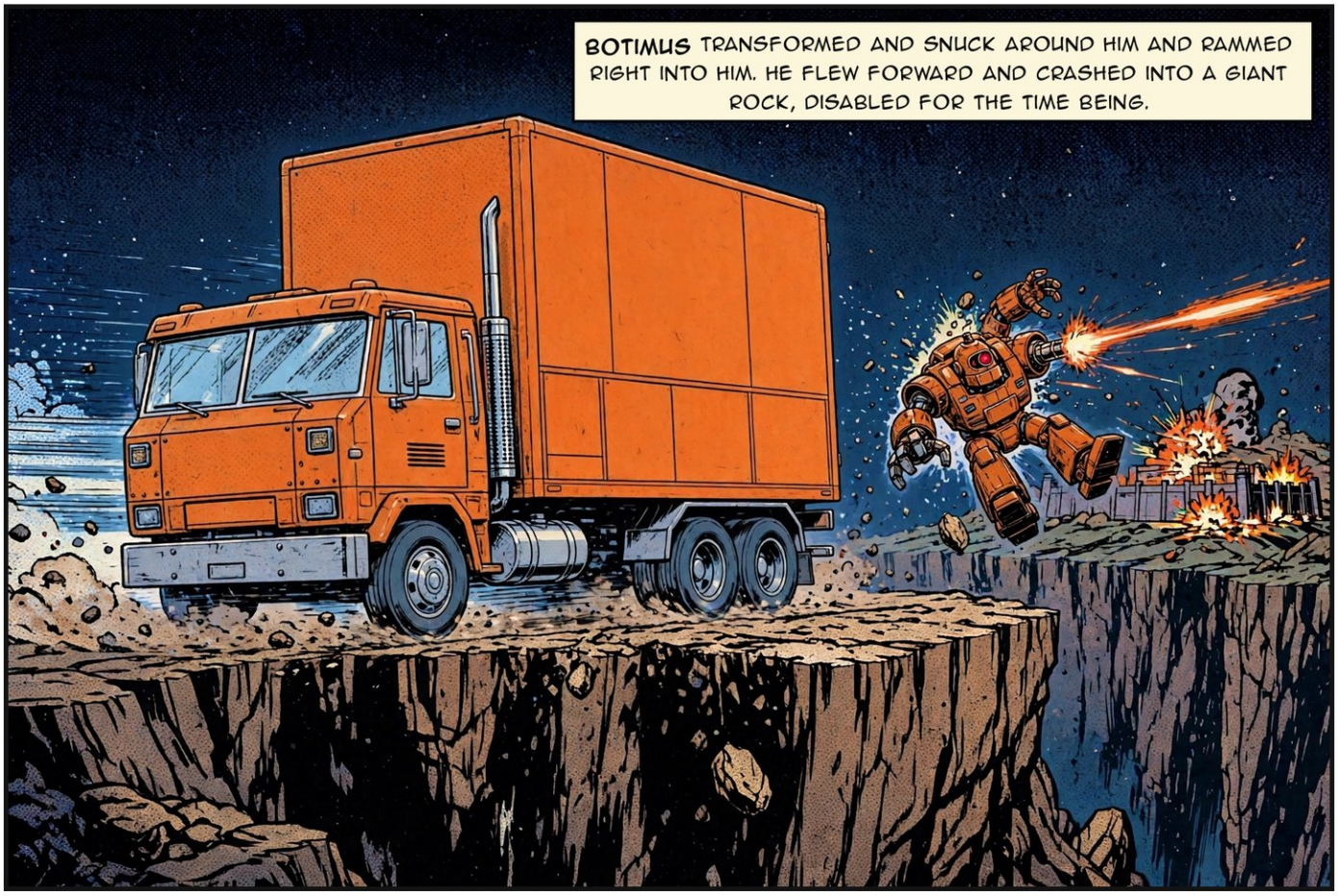

SUDDENLY, A GIANT EXPLOSION WAS HEARD OUTSIDE THE BASE. WE ALL RAN OUT THE DOORS TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
MASTER, PLEASE STAY HERE.

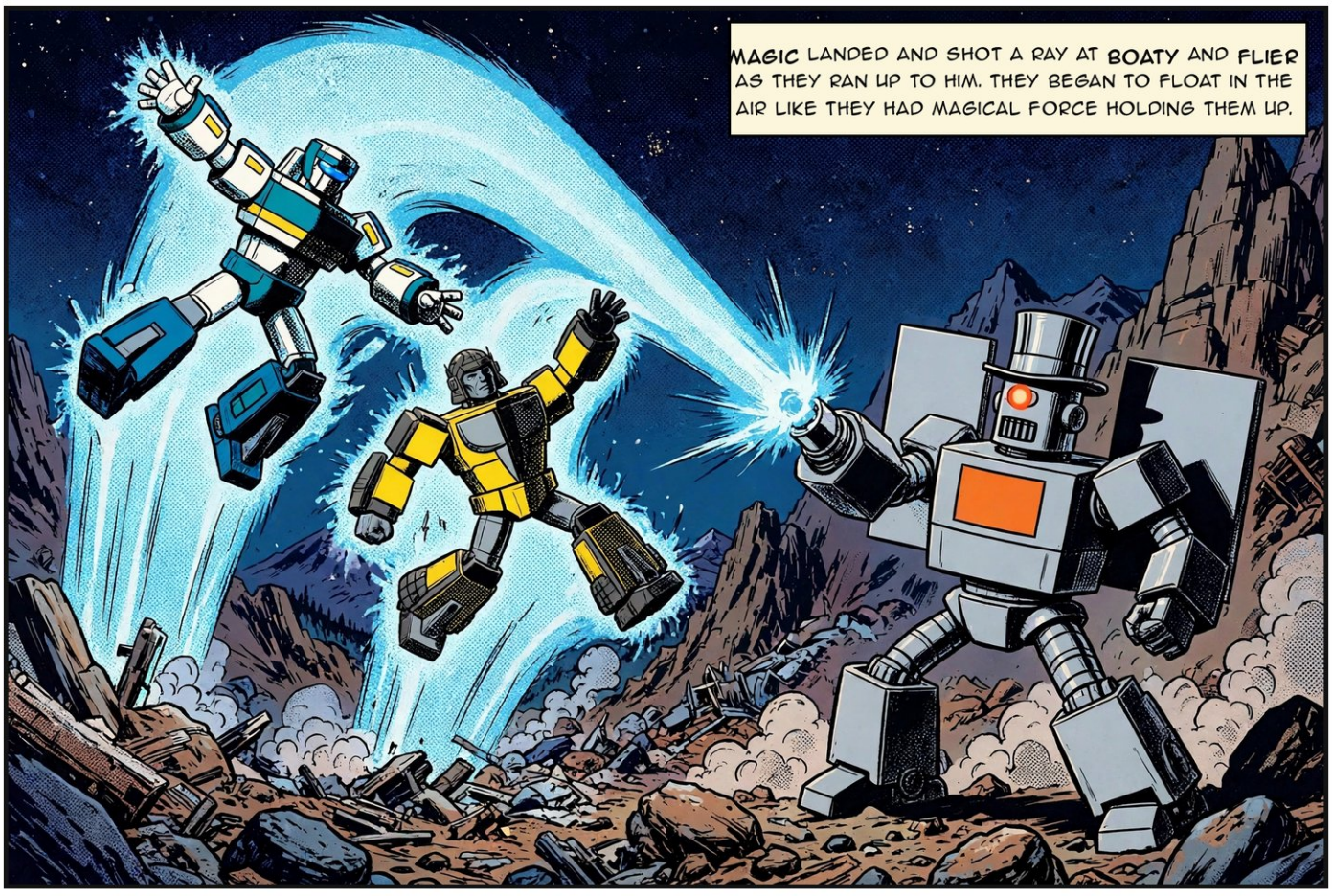

OUT OF THE GRAY CLOUDS OF THE SKY, THEY DESCENDED. GIANT BODIES OF METAL, SHINY, FIERCE, AND QUICK AS LIGHTNING. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY TEN OF THEM,
AND AS THEY CAME CLOSER TO MY BATTLE-BASE I FELT FEAR ONCE AGAIN CREEP INSIDE OF ME, ALONG WITH RAGE.


A FEW MOMENTS LATER LASER FIRE AND FIRE BOLTS RANG OUT AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW LASERS HIT THE GROUND. MY ZAPBOTS BEGAN RUNNING AND TRANSFORMING INTO THEIR VEHICLES FOR BATTLE.

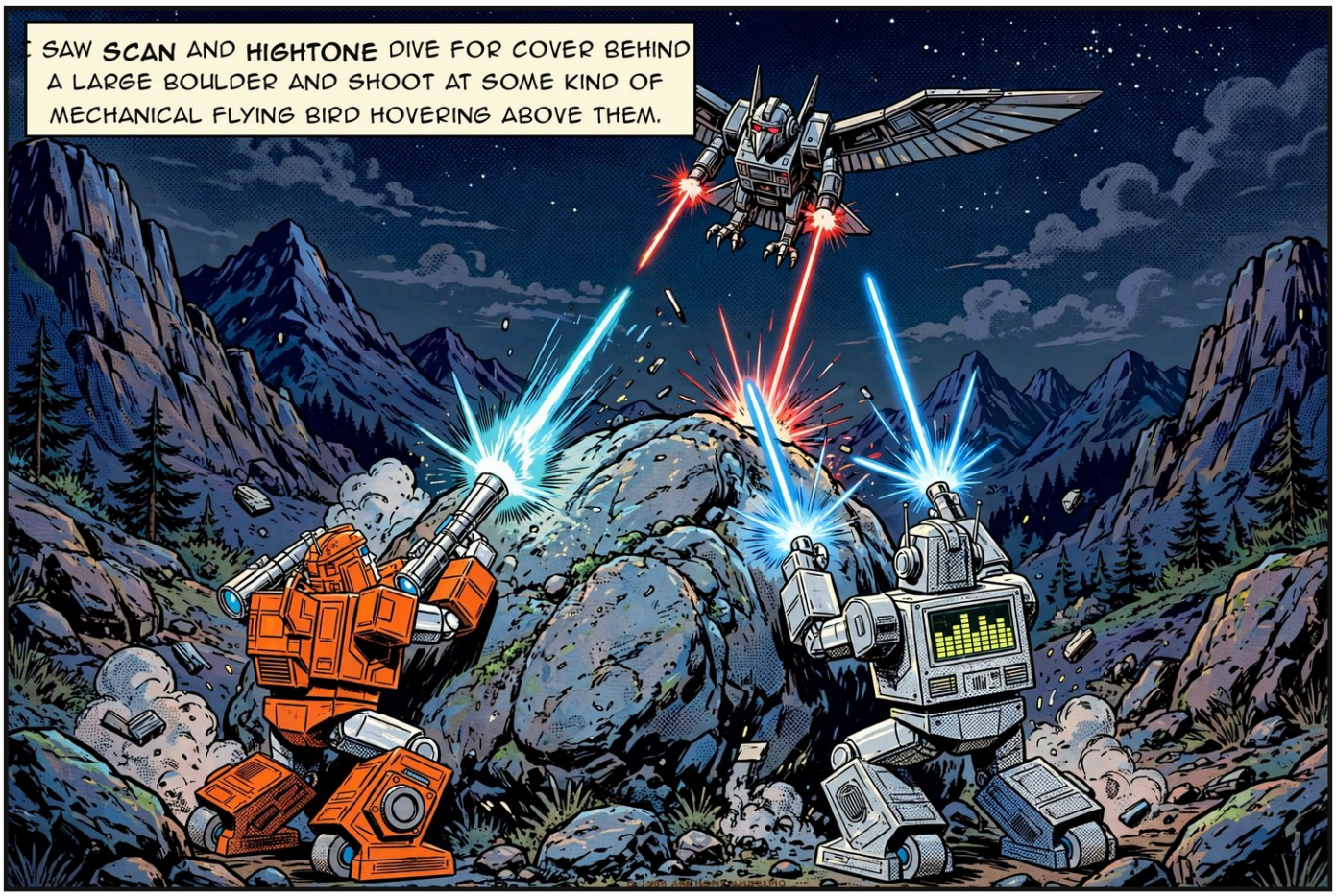

THIS IS WHEN THE ACTION BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE, WITH MASS CONFUSION OF FAMILIAR BODIES RUNNING, LEAPING, ROLLING, AND FIRING EVERY WEAPON AT EACH OTHER.

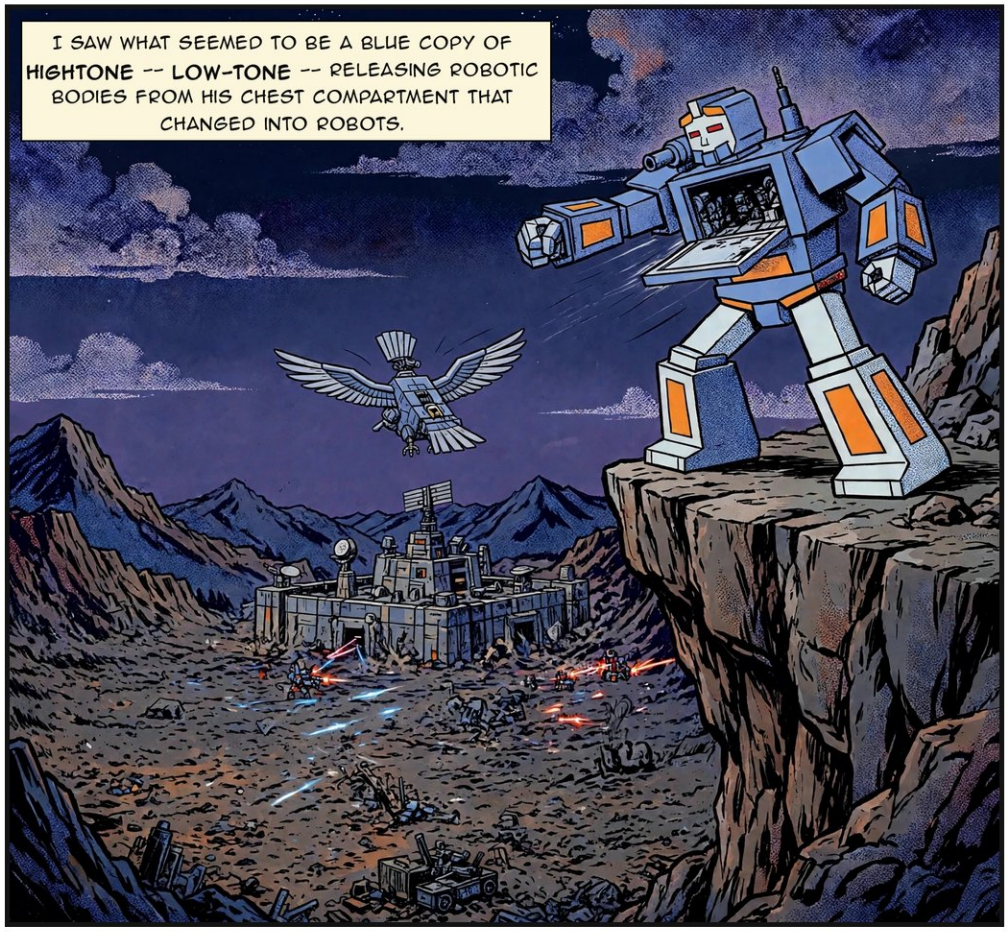

ONE JUNKICON LANDED AND BEGAN SHOOTING LIKE CRAZY, BLASTING AWAY AT THE BATTLE-BASE WITH EVERYTHING HE HAD.

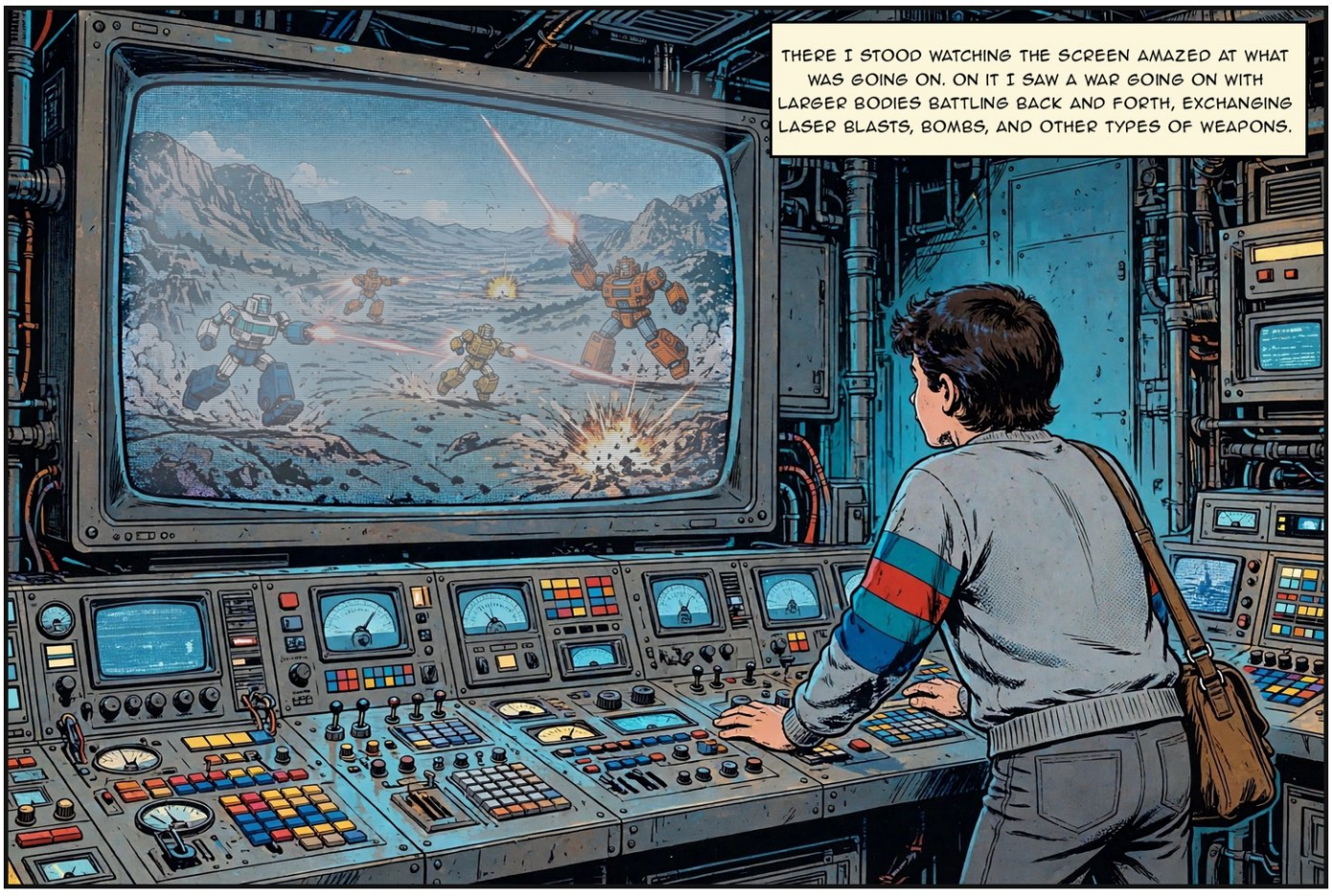

BOTIMUS TRANSFORMED AND SNUCK AROUND HIM AND RAMMED RIGHT INTO HIM. HE FLEW FORWARD AND CRASHED INTO A GIANT ROCK, DISABLED FOR THE TIME BEING.


MAGIC LANDED AND SHOT A RAY AT BOATY AND FLIER AS THEY RAN UP TO HIM. THEY BEGAN TO FLOAT IN THE AIR LIKE THEY HAD MAGICAL FORCE HOLDING THEM UP.

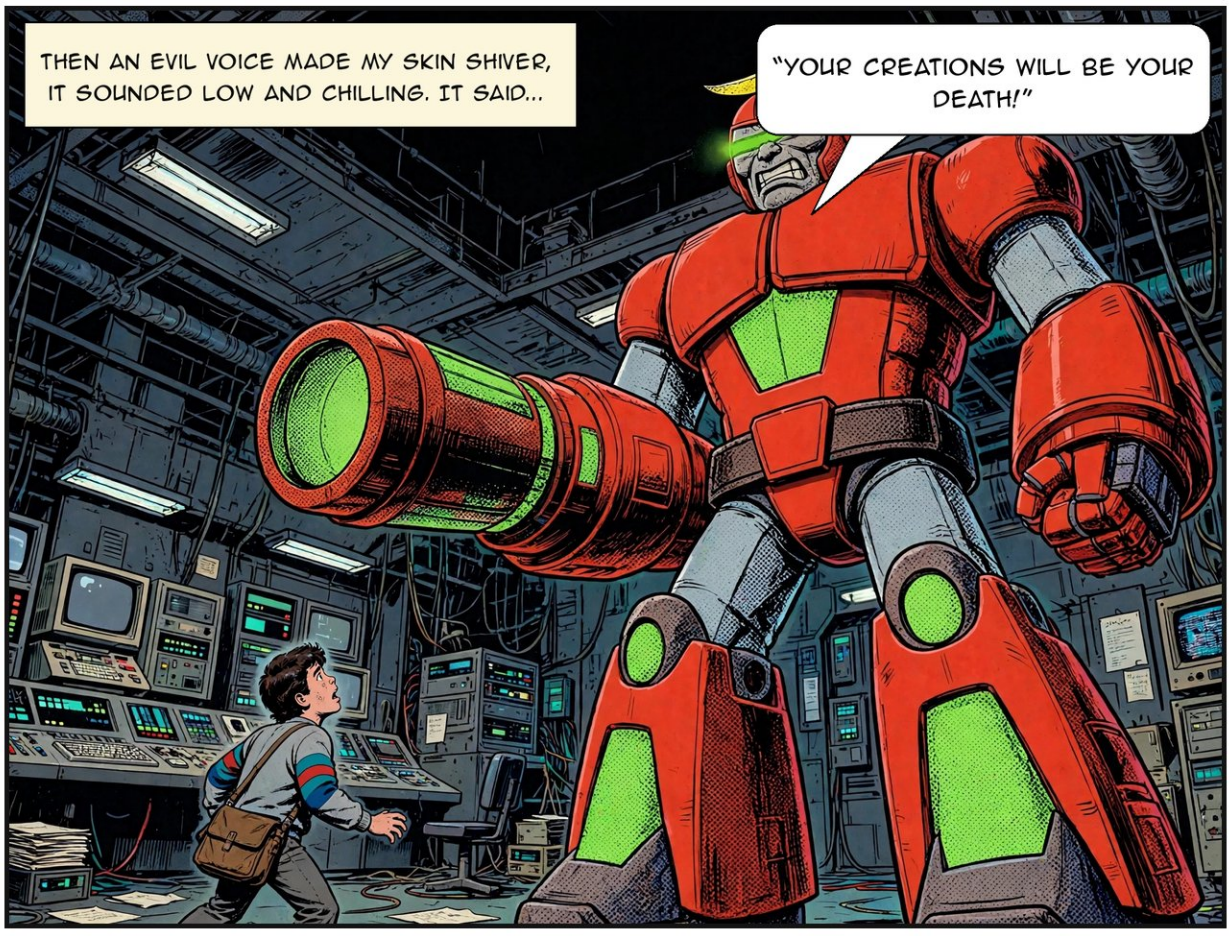

BOATY FIRED AT HIS OPPONENT AND THE JUNKICON STUMBLED BACKWARD, AND THEN RAN FOR COVER.

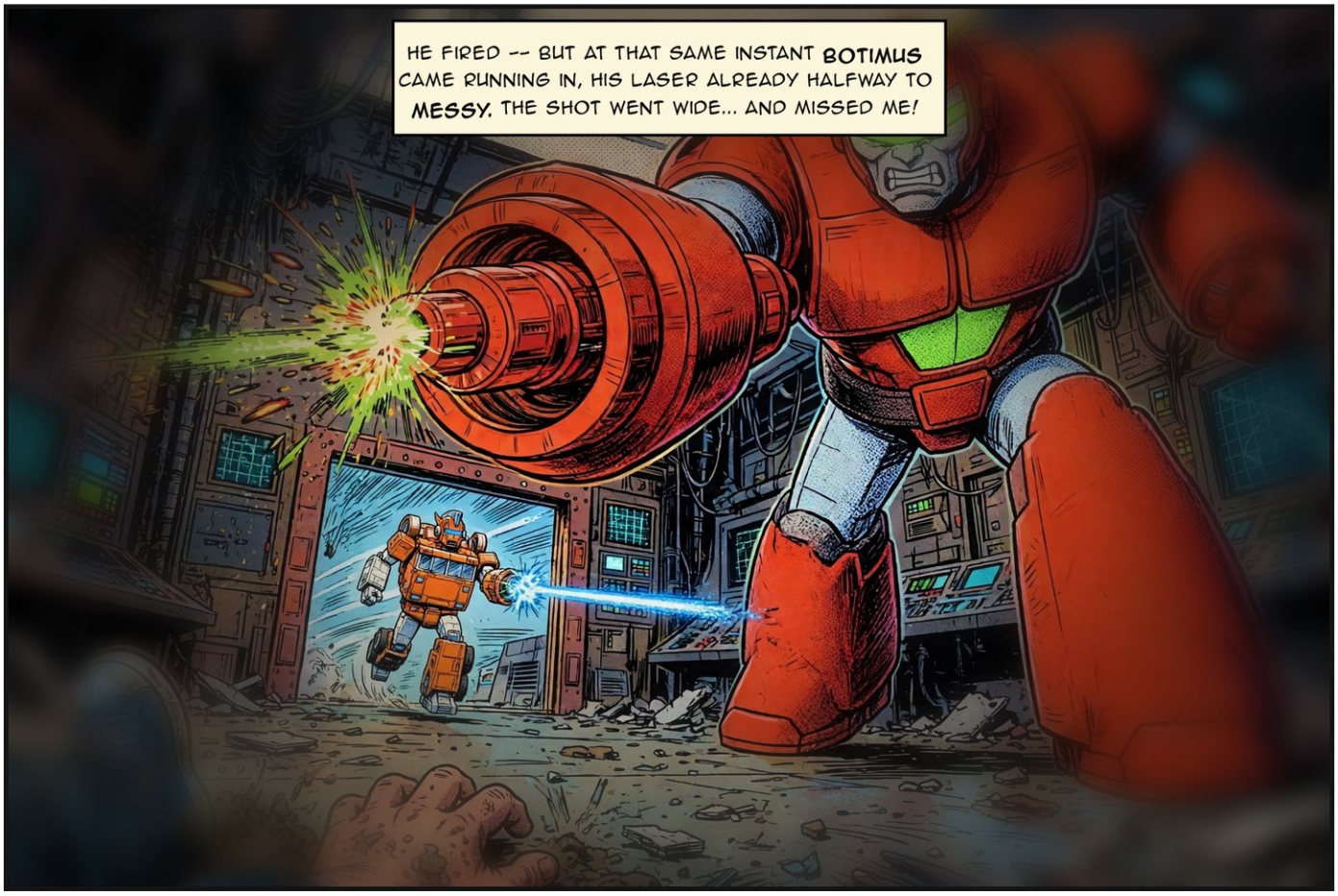

I SAW **SCAN** AND **HIGHTONE** DIVE FOR COVER BEHIND A LARGE BOULDER AND SHOOT AT SOME KIND OF MECHANICAL FLYING BIRD HOVERING ABOVE THEM.

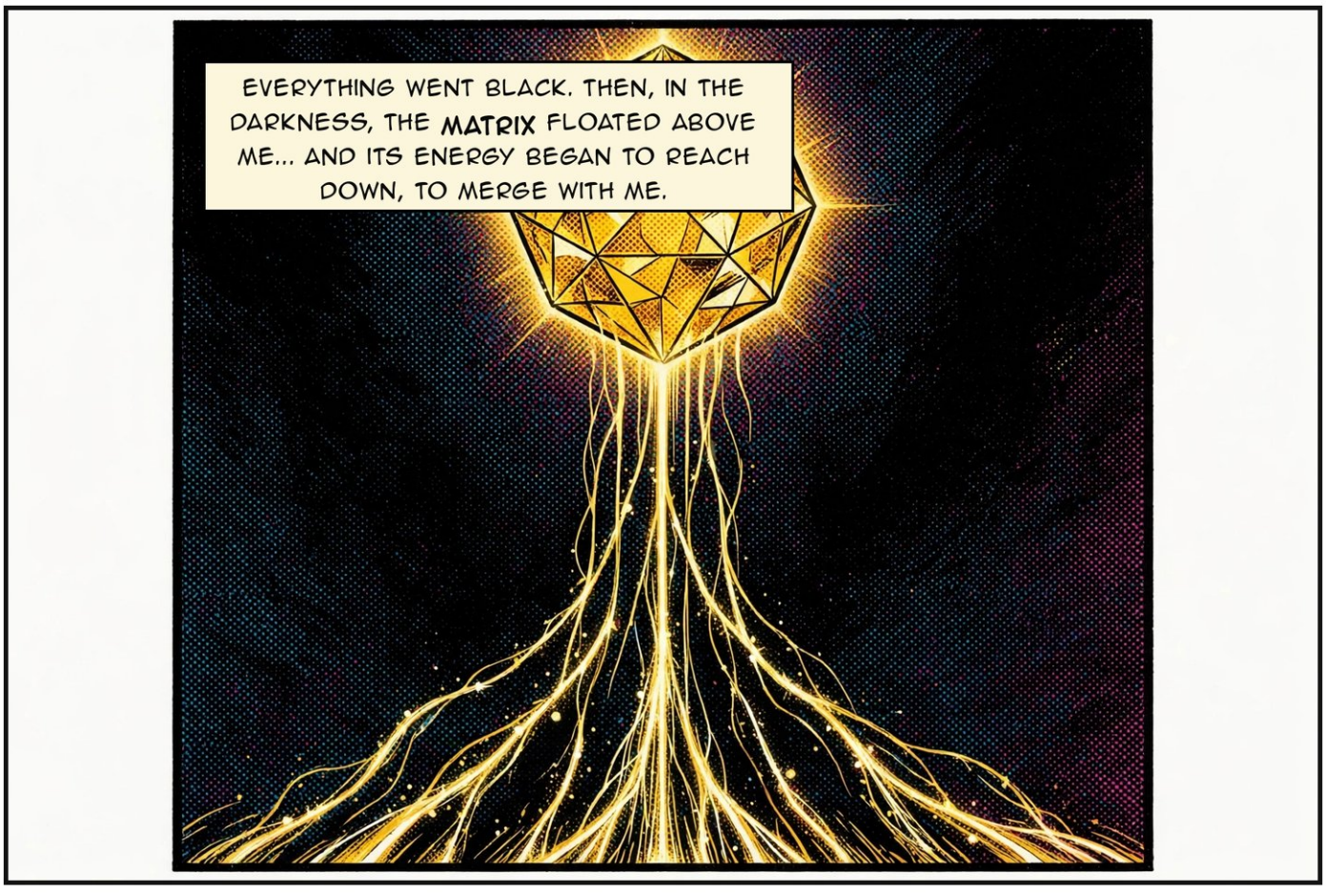

I SAW WHAT SEEMED TO BE A BLUE COPY OF **HIGHTONE** -- **LOW-TONE** -- RELEASING ROBOTIC BODIES FROM HIS CHEST COMPARTMENT THAT CHANGED INTO ROBOTS.

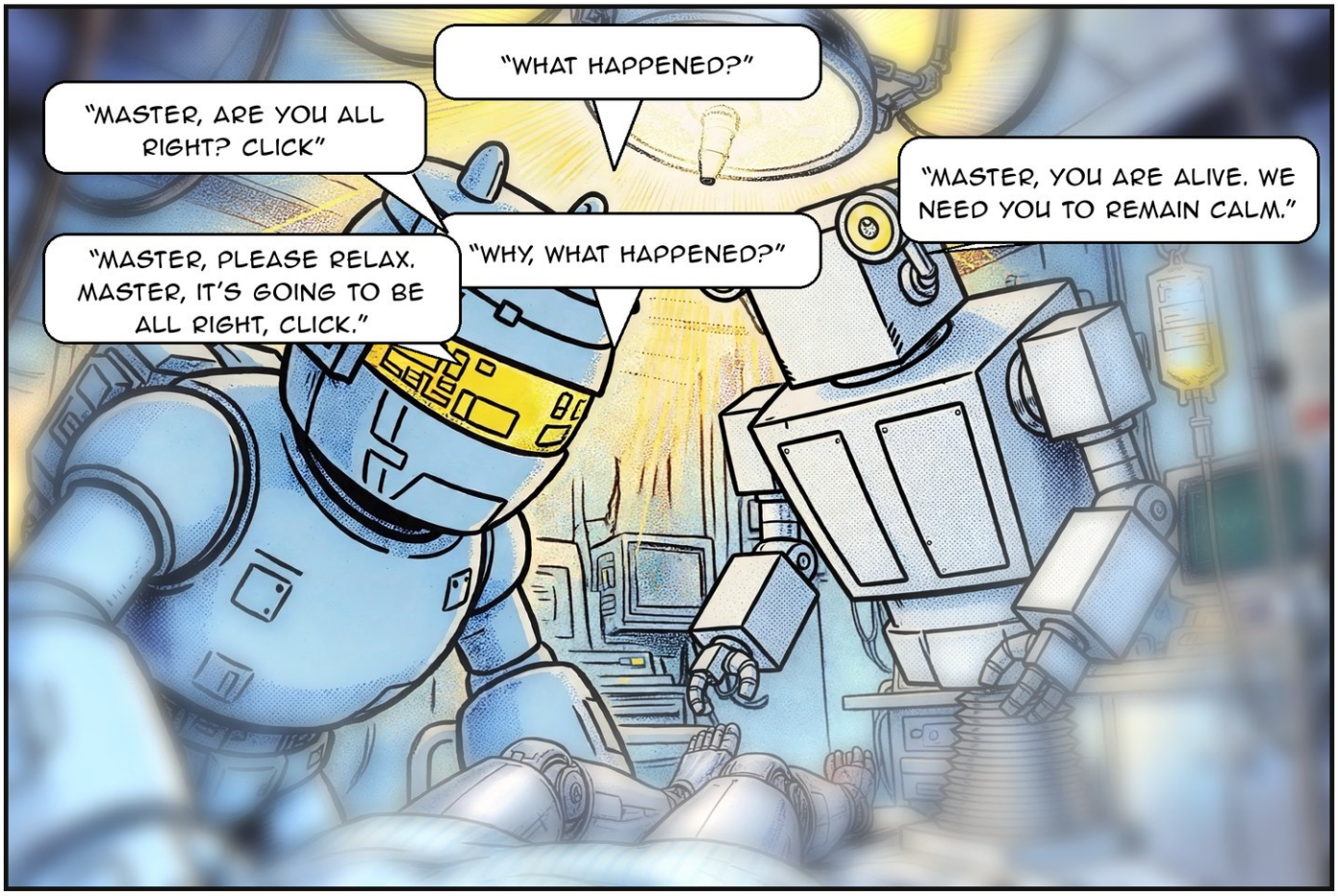

THERE I STOOD WATCHING THE SCREEN AMAZED AT WHAT WAS GOING ON. ON IT I SAW A WAR GOING ON WITH LARGER BODIES BATTLING BACK AND FORTH, EXCHANGING LASER BLASTS, BOMBS, AND OTHER TYPES OF WEAPONS.

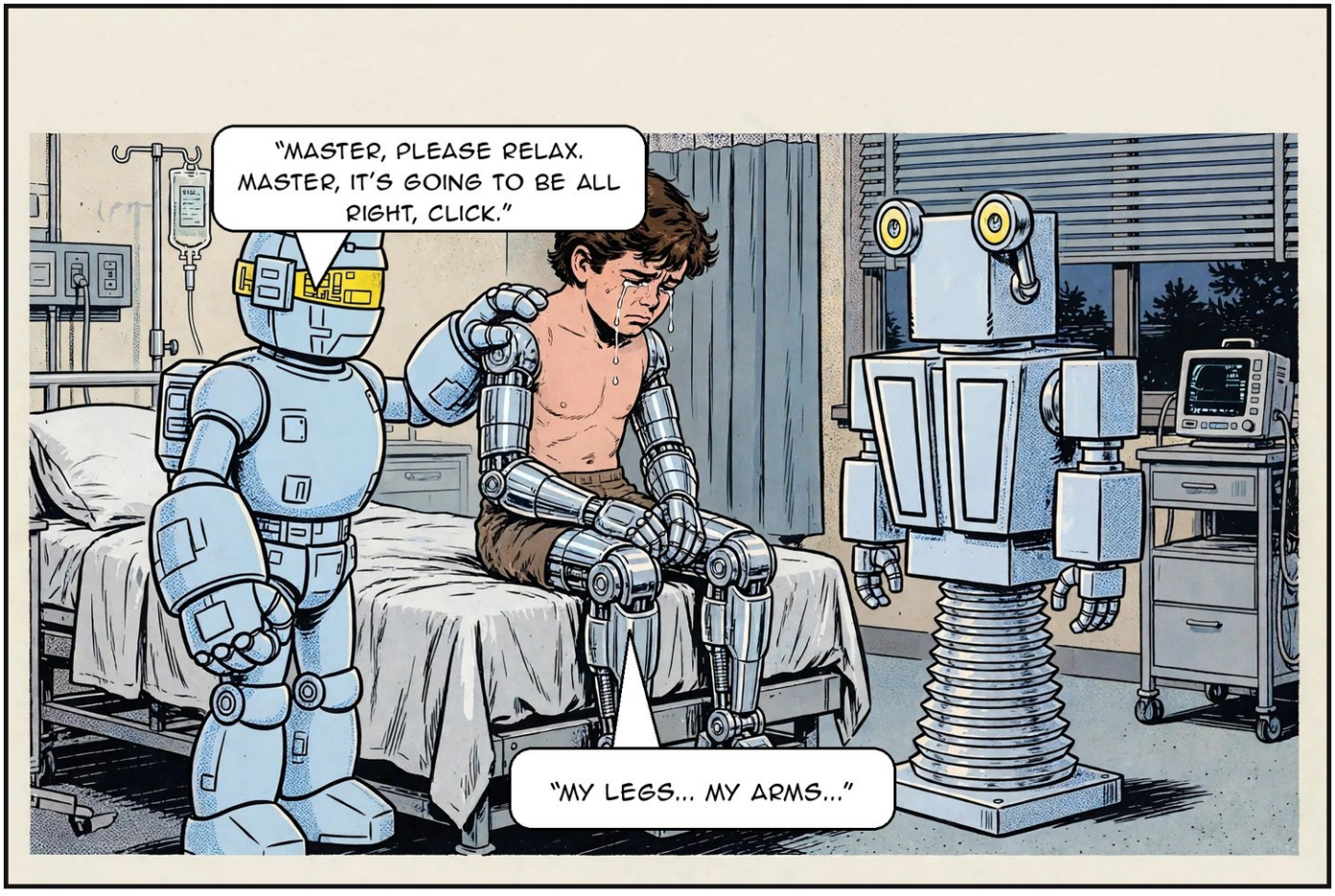

"SO, A NEW GENERATION OF ZAPBOTS IS BORN..."

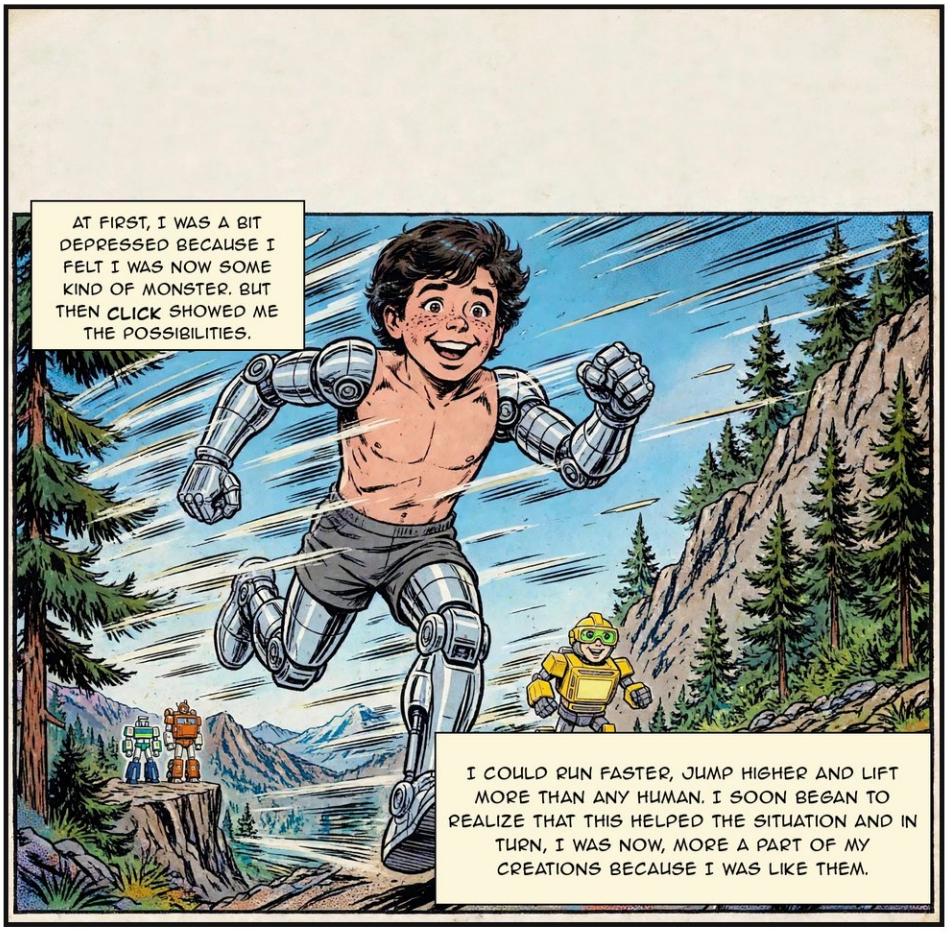

THEN AN EVIL VOICE MADE MY SKIN SHIVER, IT SOUNDED LOW AND CHILLING. IT SAID...
"YOUR CREATIONS WILL BE YOUR DEATH!"

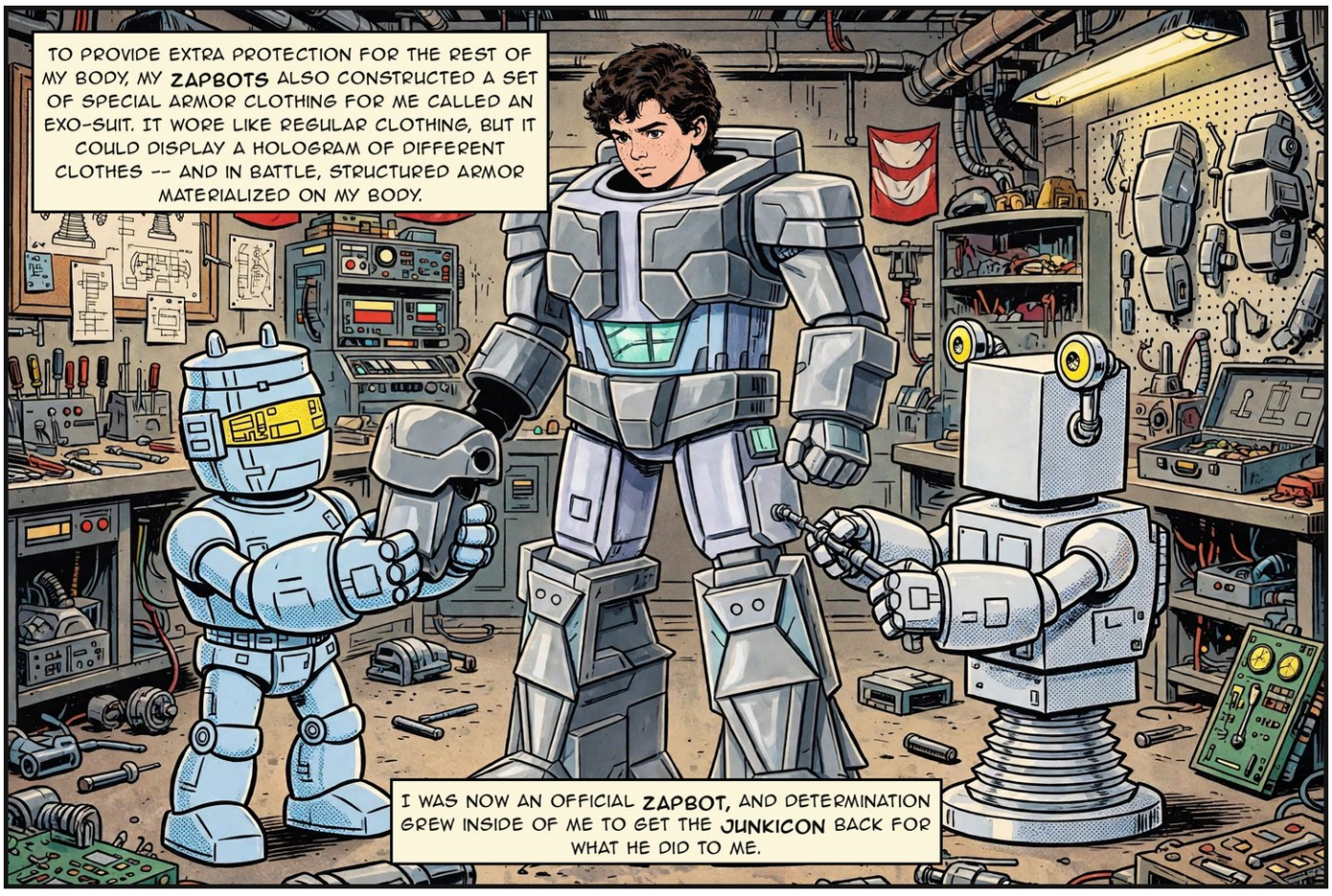

HE FIRED -- BUT AT THAT SAME INSTANT **BOTIMUS** CAME RUNNING IN, HIS LASER ALREADY HALFWAY TO **MESSY.** THE SHOT WENT WIDE... AND MISSED ME!

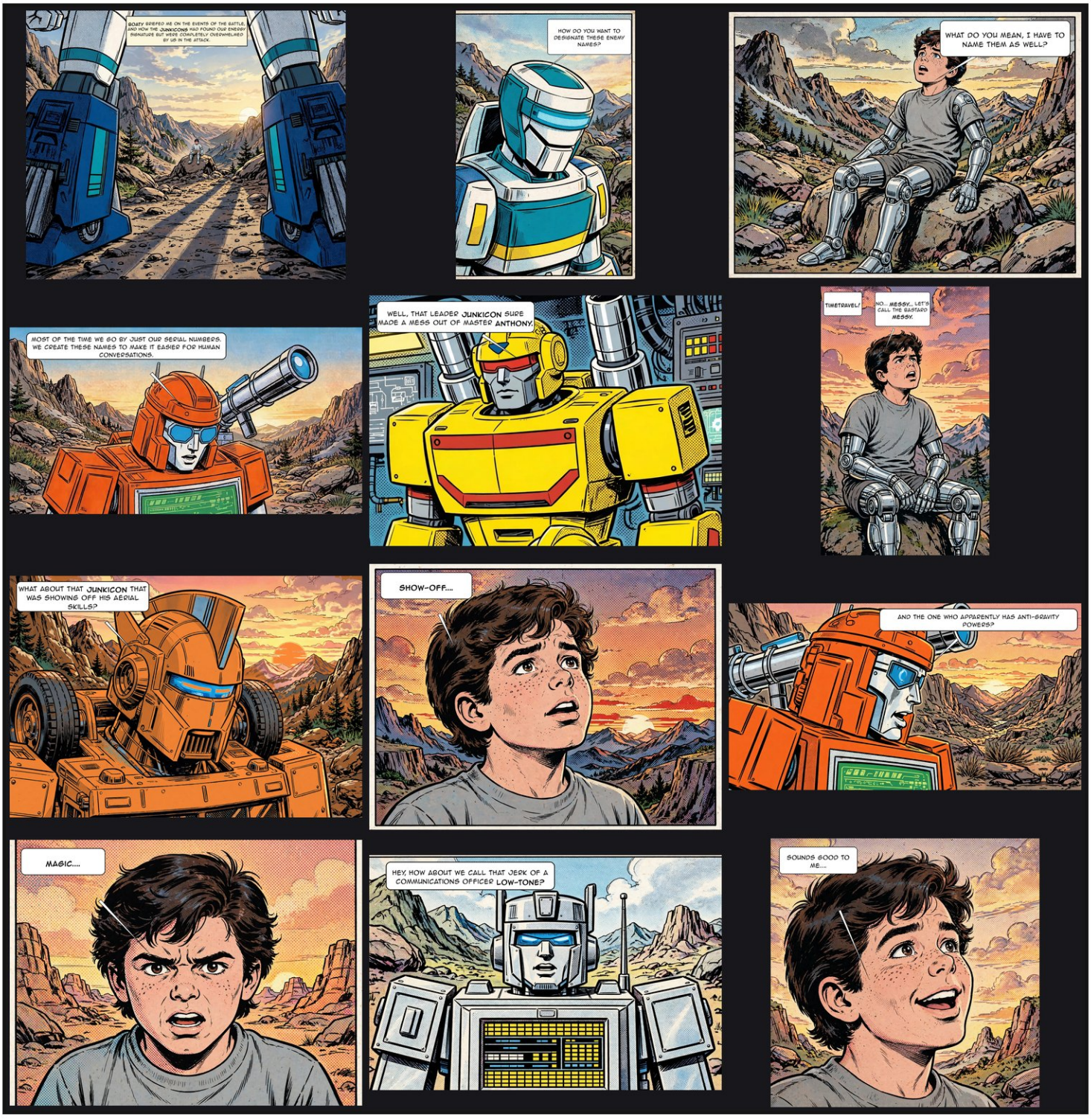

EVERYTHING WENT BLACK. THEN, IN THE DARKNESS, THE **MATRIX** FLOATED ABOVE ME... AND ITS ENERGY BEGAN TO REACH DOWN, TO MERGE WITH ME.

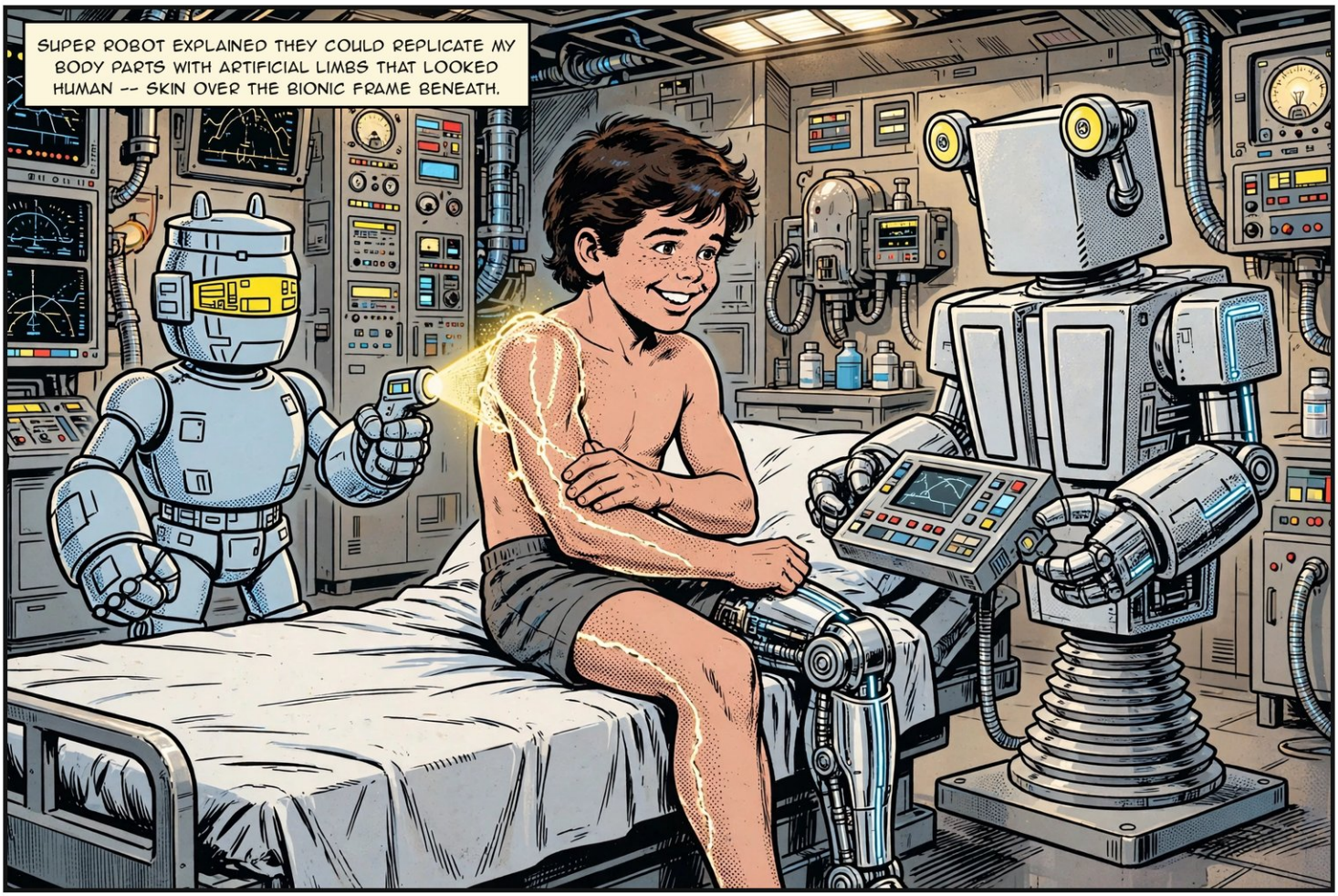

"WHAT HAPPENED?"
"MASTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CLICK"
"MASTER, YOU ARE ALIVE. WE NEED YOU TO REMAIN CALM."
"MASTER, PLEASE RELAX. MASTER, IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, CLICK."
"WHY, WHAT HAPPENED?"


"MASTER, PLEASE RELAX. MASTER, IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, CLICK."
"MY LEGS... MY ARMS..."


AT FIRST, I WAS A BIT DEPRESSED BECAUSE I FELT I WAS NOW SOME KIND OF MONSTER. BUT THEN CLICK SHOWED ME THE POSSIBILITIES.
I COULD RUN FASTER, JUMP HIGHER AND LIFT MORE THAN ANY HUMAN. I SOON BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT THIS HELPED THE SITUATION AND IN TURN, I WAS NOW, MORE A PART OF MY CREATIONS BECAUSE I WAS LIKE THEM.


TO PROVIDE EXTRA PROTECTION FOR THE REST OF MY BODY, MY ZAPBOTS ALSO CONSTRUCTED A SET OF SPECIAL ARMOR CLOTHING FOR ME CALLED AN EXO-SUIT. IT WORE LIKE REGULAR CLOTHING, BUT IT COULD DISPLAY A HOLOGRAM OF DIFFERENT CLOTHES -- AND IN BATTLE, STRUCTURED ARMOR MATERIALIZED ON MY BODY.
I WAS NOW AN OFFICIAL ZAPBOT, AND DETERMINATION GREW INSIDE OF ME TO GET THE JUNKICON BACK FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME.


BOATY BRIEFED ME ON THE EVENTS OF THE BATTLE, AND HOW THE JUNKICONS HAD FOUND OUR ENERGY SIGNATURE BUT WERE COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY US IN THE ATTACK.
HOW DO YOU WANT TO DESIGNATE THESE ENEMY NAMES?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I HAVE TO NAME THEM AS WELL?
MOST OF THE TIME WE GO BY JUST OUR SERIAL NUMBERS. WE CREATE THESE NAMES TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HUMAN CONVERSATIONS.
WELL, THAT LEADER JUNKICON SURE MADE A MESS OUT OF MASTER ANTHONY.
TIMETRAVEL?
NO... MESSY... LET'S CALL THE BASTARD MESSY.
WHAT ABOUT THAT JUNKICON THAT WAS SHOWING OFF HIS AERIAL SKILLS?
SHOW-OFF....
AND THE ONE WHO APPARENTLY HAS ANTI-GRAVITY POWERS?
MAGIC....
HEY, HOW ABOUT WE CALL THAT JERK OF A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER LOW-TONE?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME....

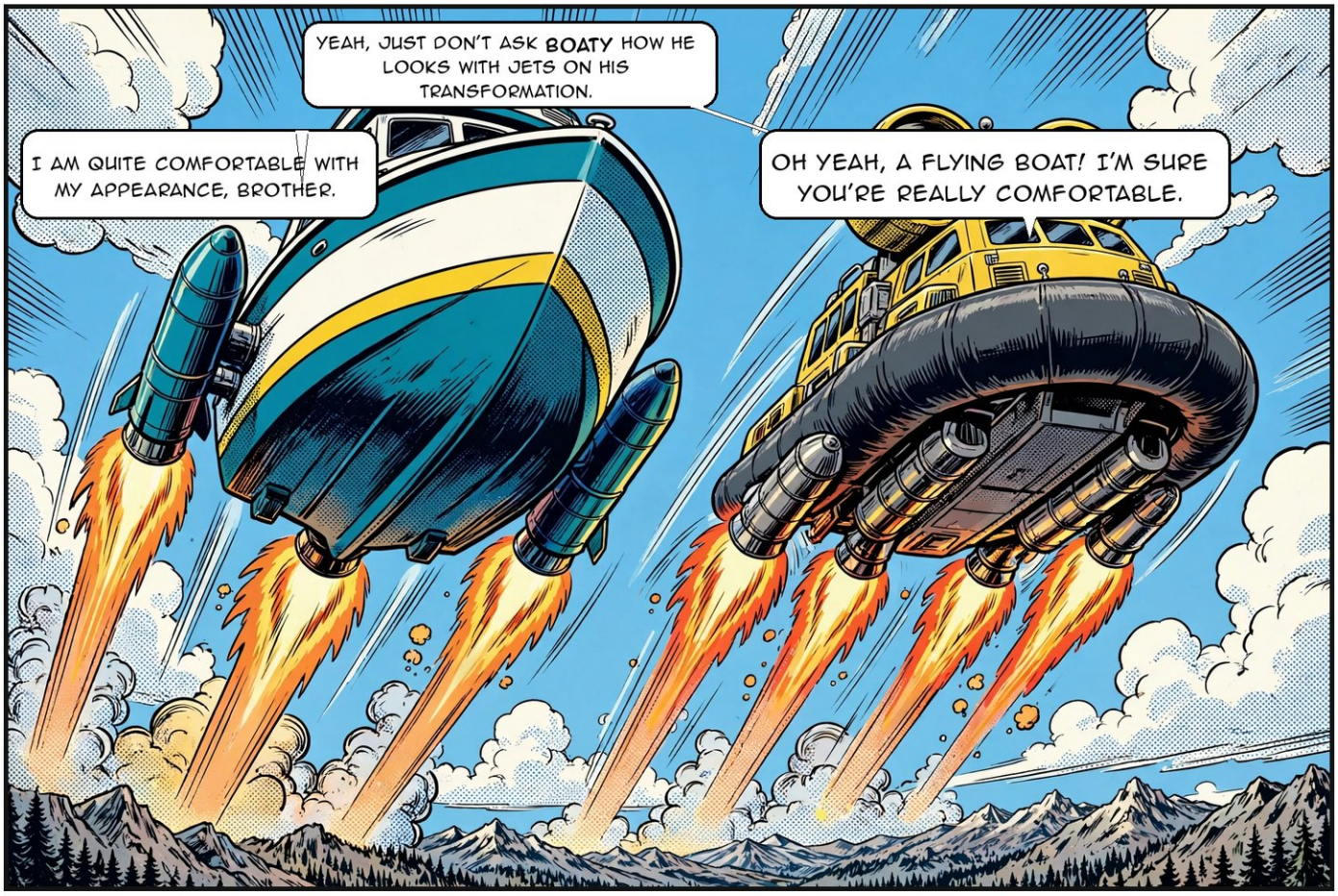

SUPER ROBOT EXPLAINED THEY COULD REPLICATE MY BODY PARTS WITH ARTIFICIAL LIMBS THAT LOOKED HUMAN -- SKIN OVER THE BIONIC FRAME BENEATH.

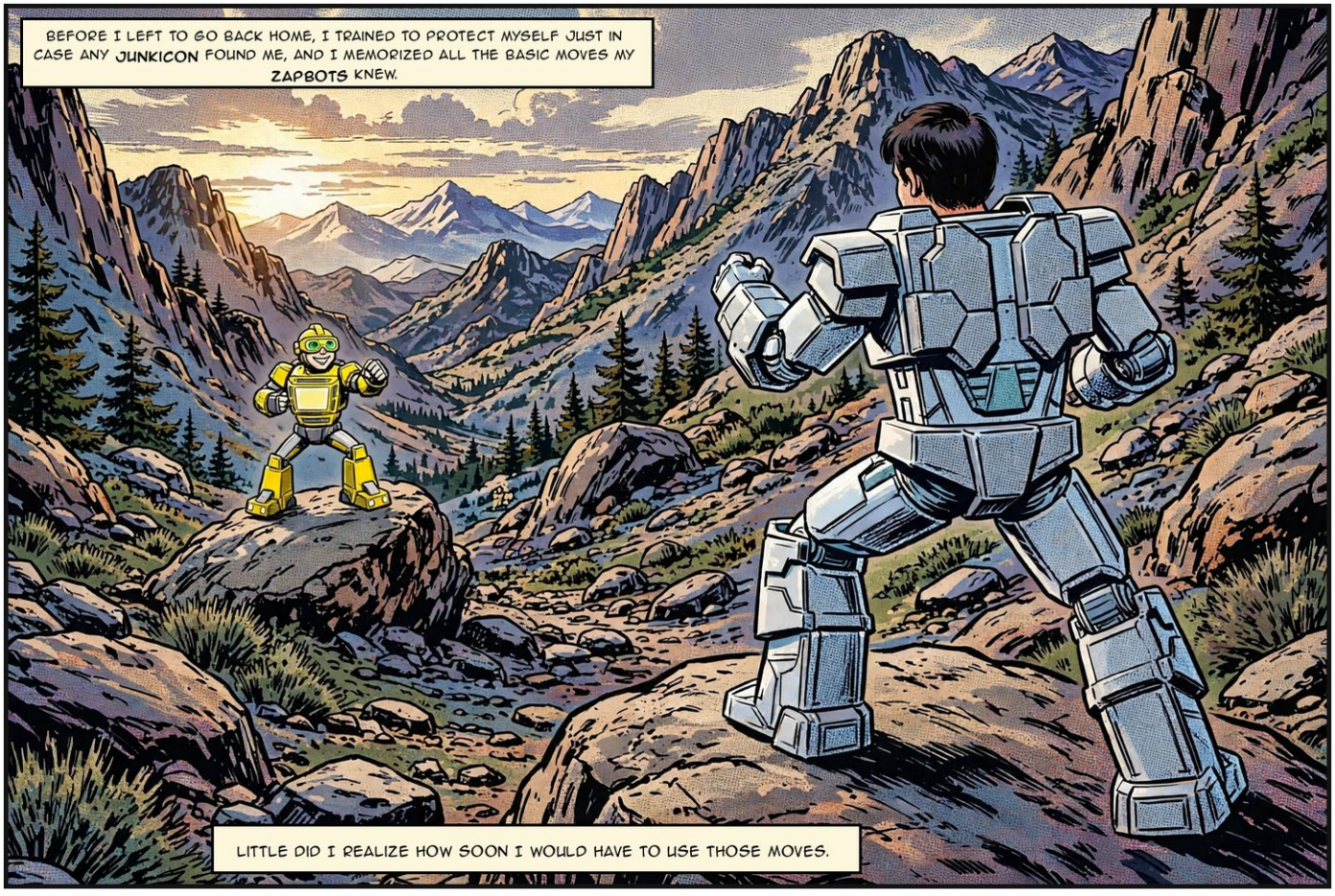
WEEKS WENT BY AND THE **JUNKICONS** SEEMED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM OUR RADAR. SUMMER RAN BY AND I PREPARED TO RETURN HOME TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL.

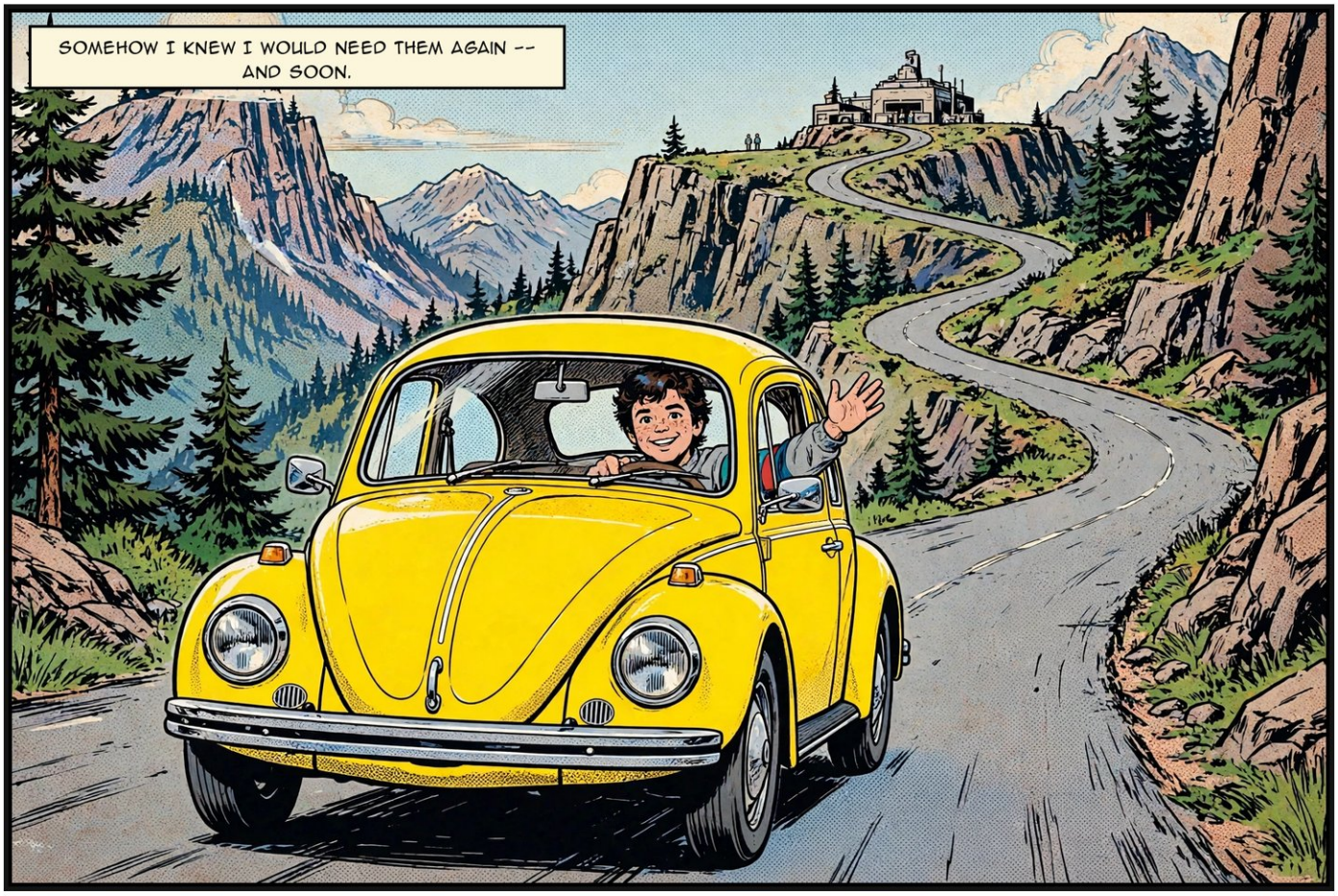
MY **ZAPBOTS** WOULD STAY IN THE MOUNTAINS IN MY **BATTLE-BASE**, READY FOR ACTION AND MONITORING ANY DEVELOPMENT OF **JUNKICON** ACTIVITY. PLUS, I COULD ALWAYS SEE THEM WHENEVER I WANTED TO, AND I KNEW THAT I WOULD BE SPENDING MY TIME WITH THEM ON WEEKENDS.

MY **ZAPBOTS** HAD DEVELOPED FLIGHT ABILITIES THAT ALLOWED THEM TO FLY IN BOTH ROBOT AND VEHICLE MODE. IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING DEMONSTRATION AS **SCAN** PROVIDED ONE AFTERNOON.

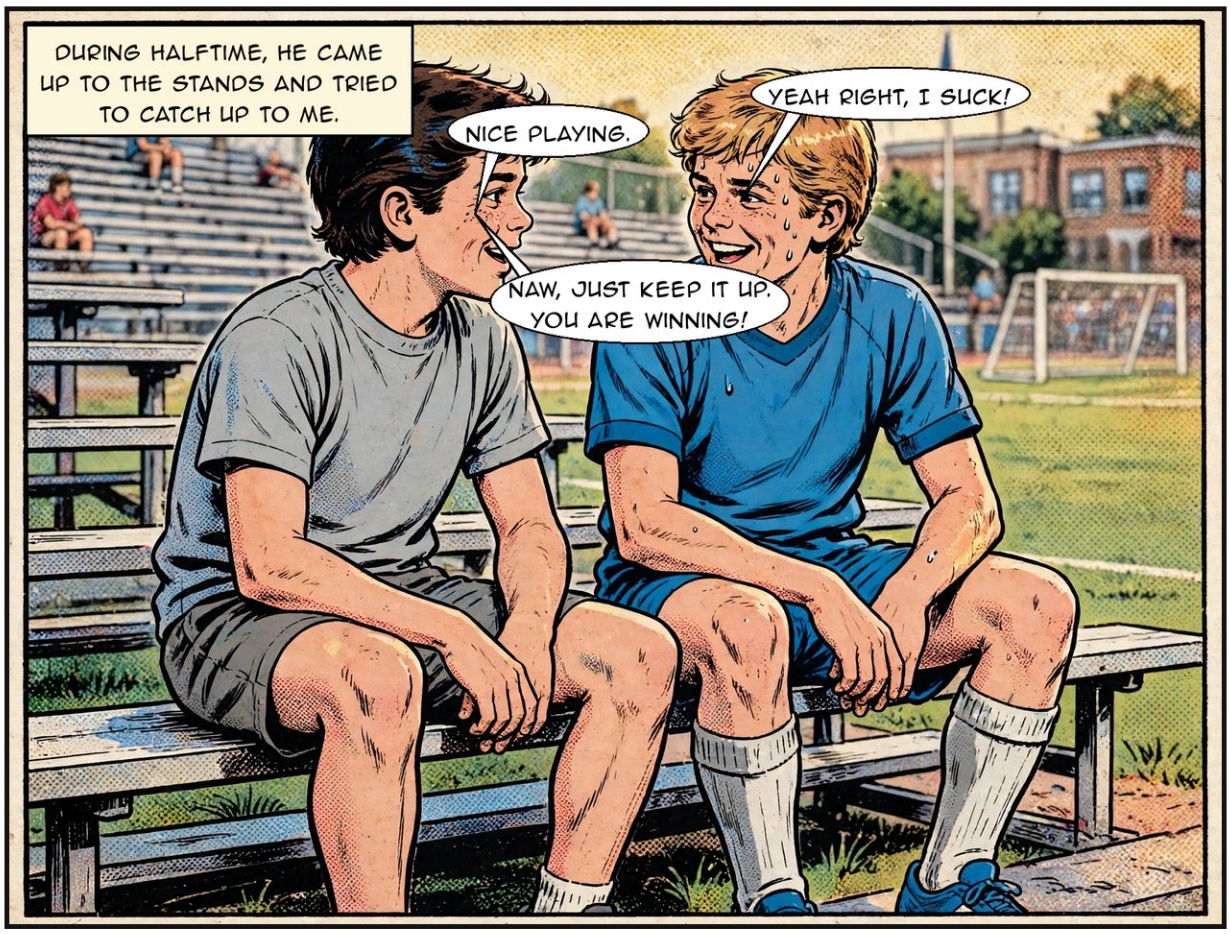
HOLY COW, THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

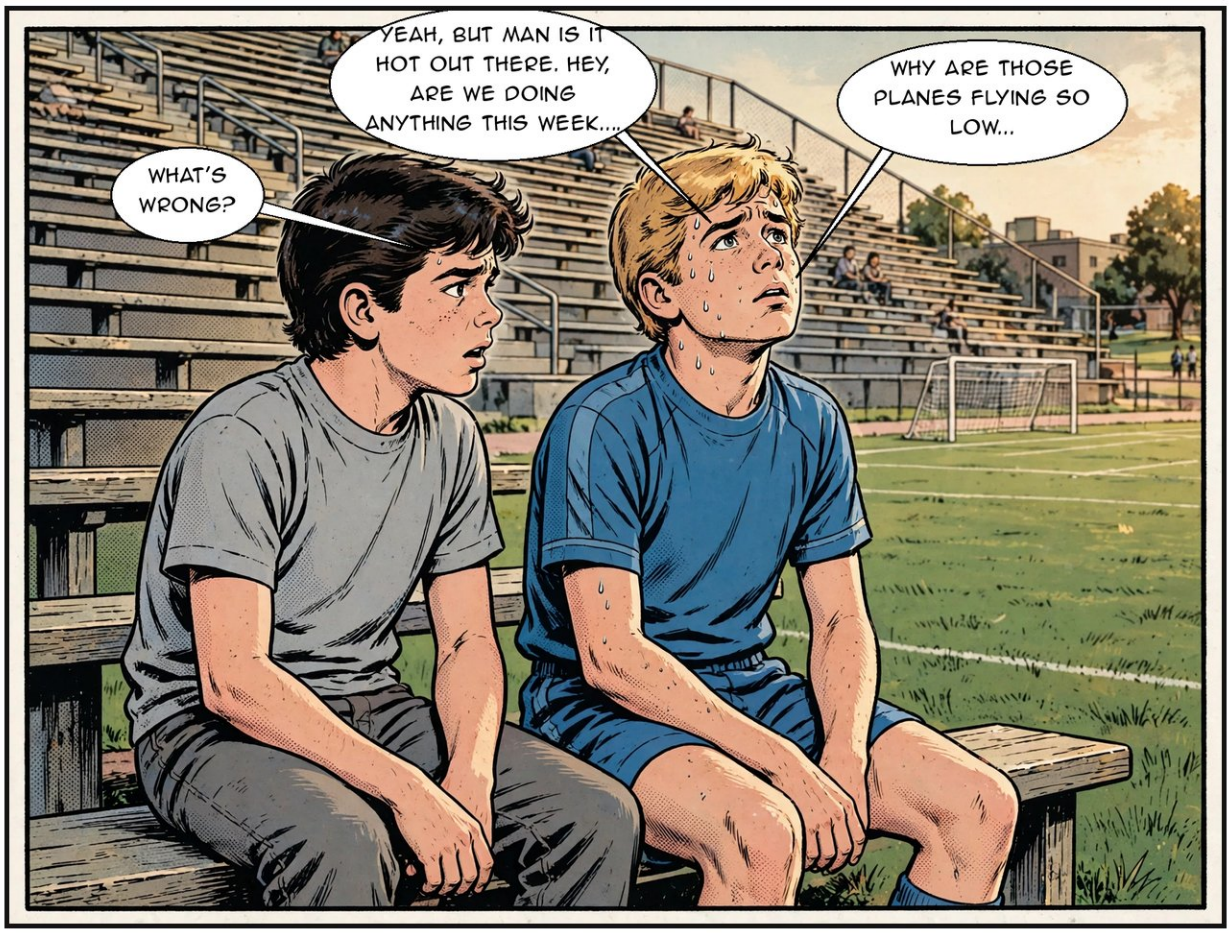

YEAH, JUST DON'T ASK BOATY HOW HE LOOKS WITH JETS ON HIS TRANSFORMATION.
I AM QUITE COMFORTABLE WITH MY APPEARANCE, BROTHER.
OH YEAH, A FLYING BOAT! I'M SURE YOU'RE REALLY COMFORTABLE.

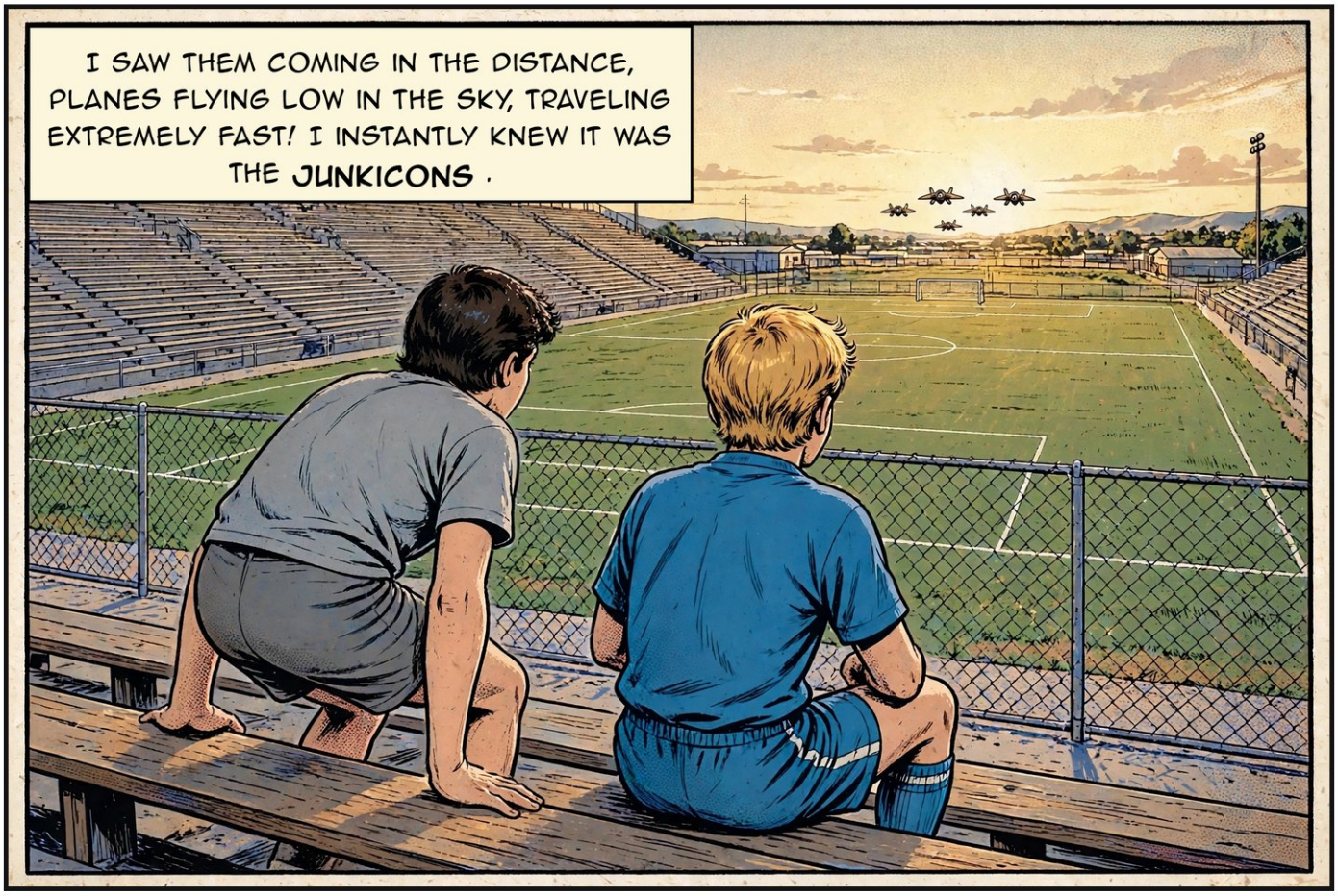

BEFORE I LEFT TO GO BACK HOME, I TRAINED TO PROTECT MYSELF JUST IN CASE ANY JUNKICON FOUND ME, AND I MEMORIZED ALL THE BASIC MOVES MY ZAPBOTS KNEW.
LITTLE DID I REALIZE HOW SOON I WOULD HAVE TO USE THOSE MOVES.

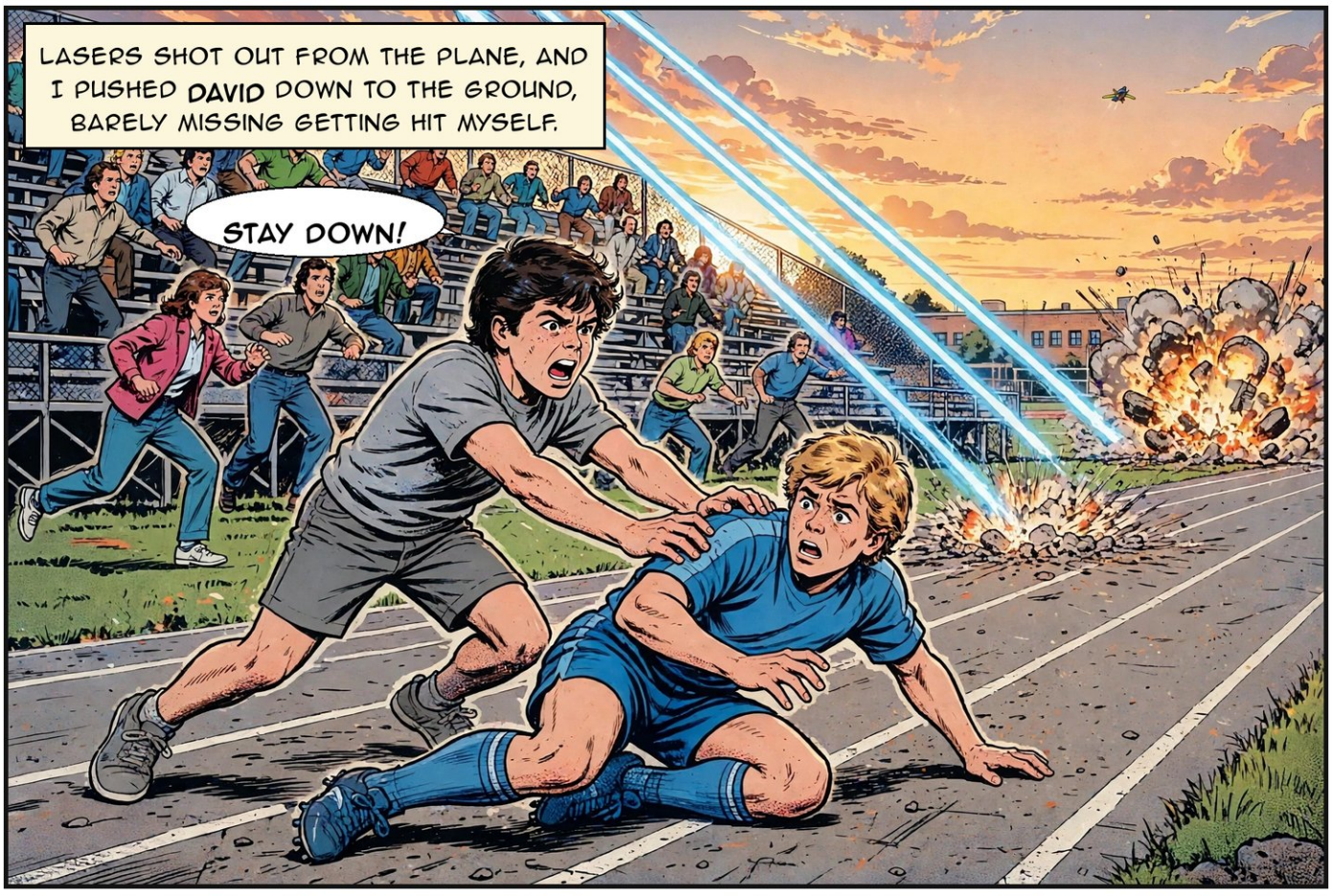

SOMEHOW I KNEW I WOULD NEED THEM AGAIN -- AND SOON.

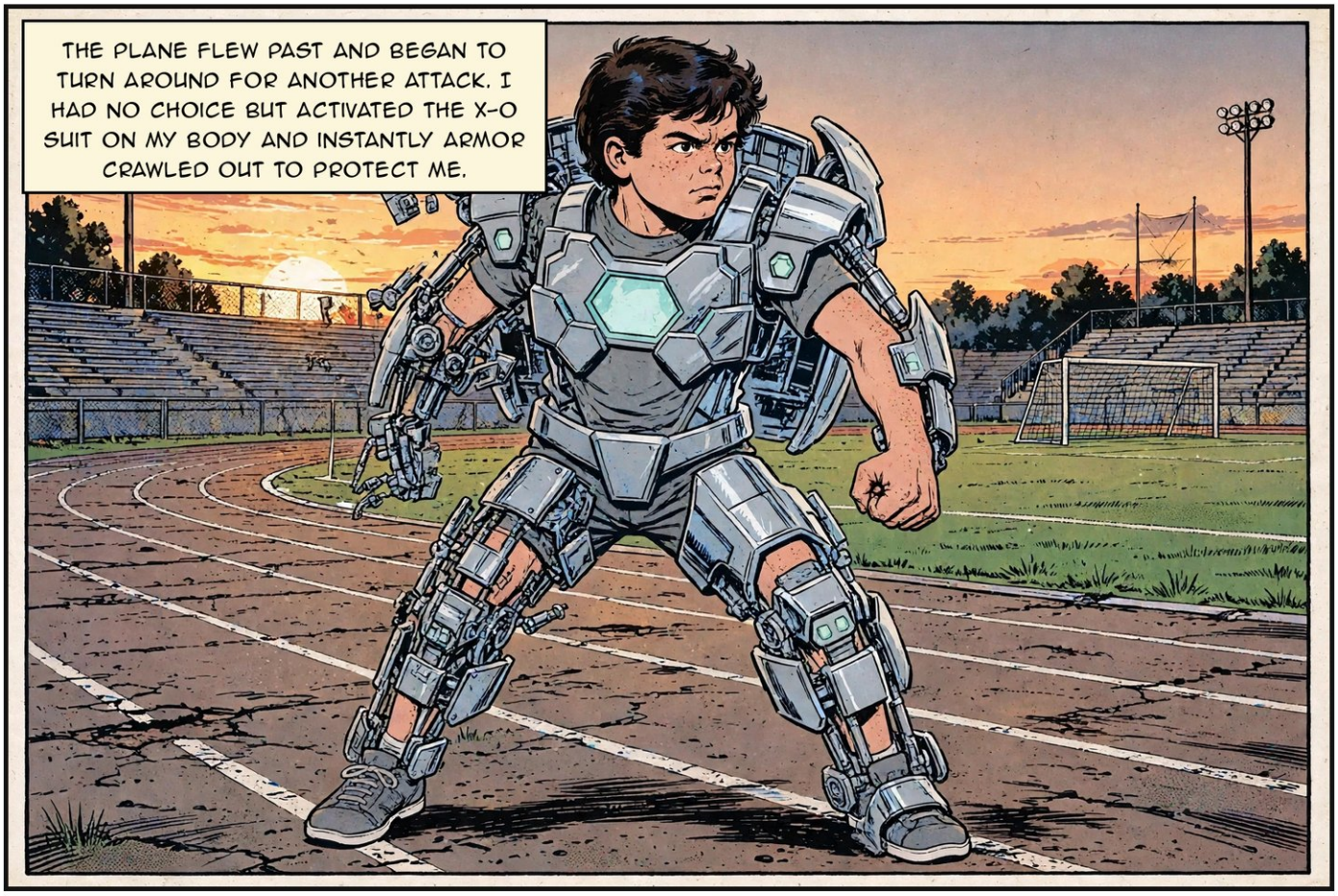

ONE WEEKDAY AFTERNOON, I WAS WATCHING MY FRIEND DAVID AT ONE OF HIS SOCCER GAMES. I WAS JUST SITTING BY MYSELF IN A SOMEWHAT CROWDED STACK OF BLEACHERS WONDERING WHETHER I SHOULD TELL DAVID AND MATT ABOUT MY ZAPBOTS .


DURING HALFTIME, HE CAME UP TO THE STANDS AND TRIED TO CATCH UP TO ME.
NICE PLAYING.
YEAH RIGHT, I SUCK!
NAW, JUST KEEP IT UP. YOU ARE WINNING!

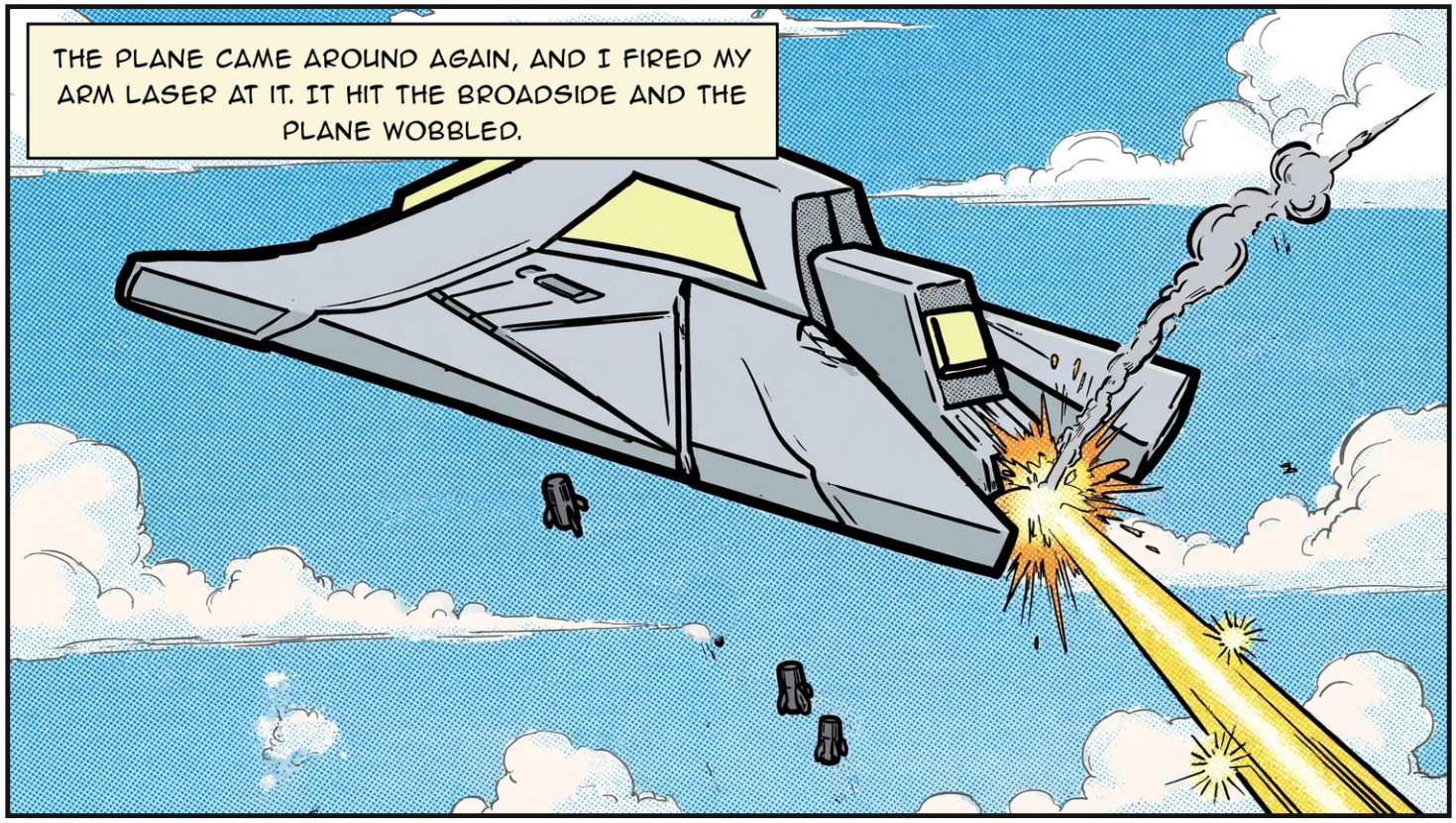

YEAH, BUT MAN IS IT HOT OUT THERE. HEY, ARE WE DOING ANYTHING THIS WEEK....
WHY ARE THOSE PLANES FLYING SO LOW...
WHAT'S WRONG?

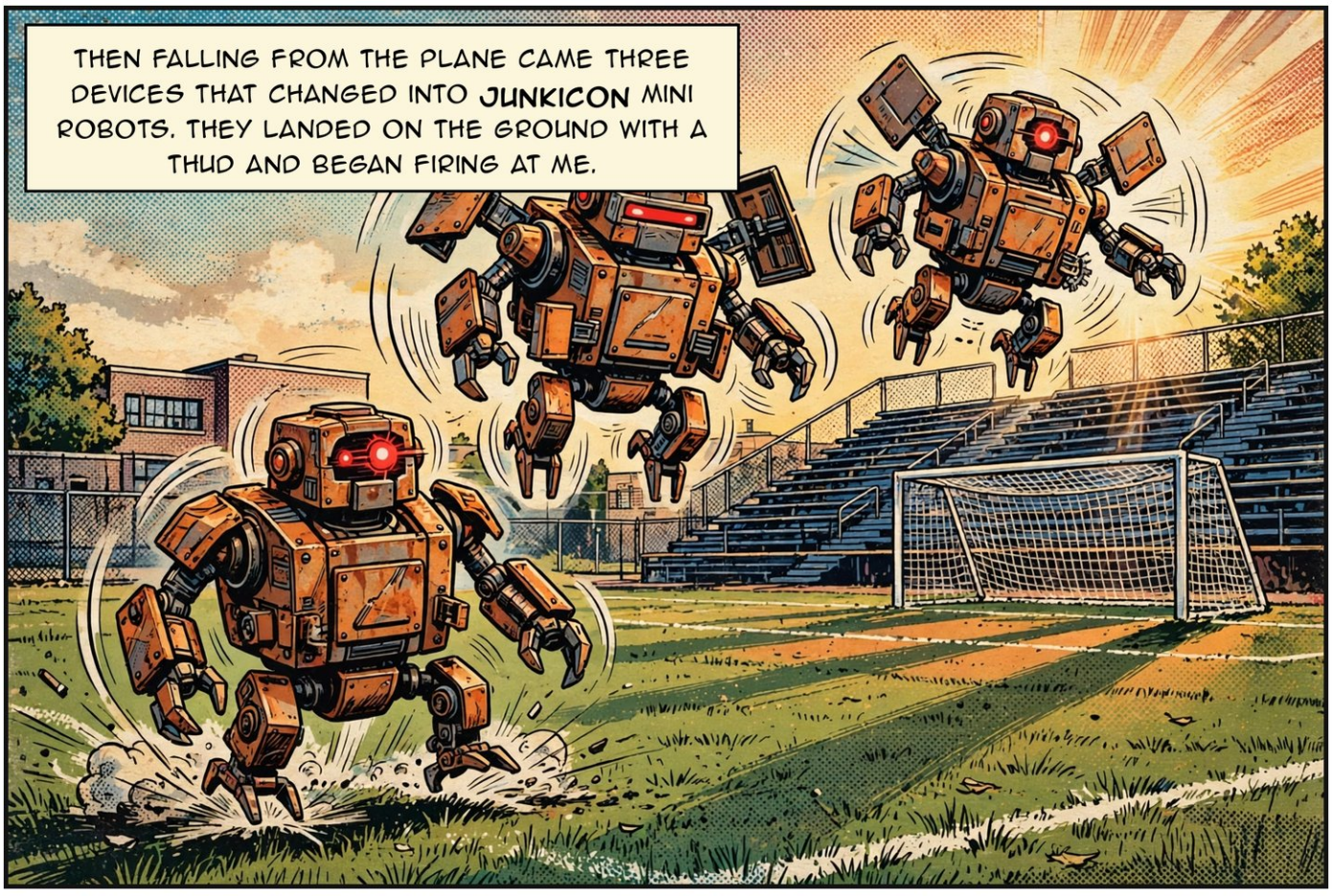

I SAW THEM COMING IN THE DISTANCE, PLANES FLYING LOW IN THE SKY, TRAVELING EXTREMELY FAST! I INSTANTLY KNEW IT WAS THE JUNKICONS .

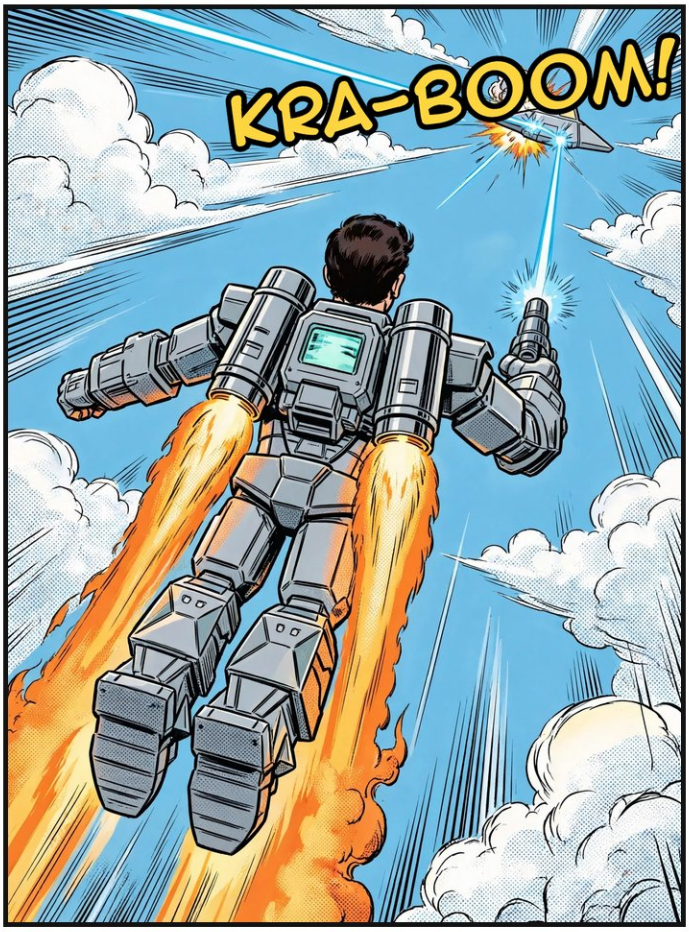

LASERS SHOT OUT FROM THE PLANE, AND I PUSHED DAVID DOWN TO THE GROUND, BARELY MISSING GETTING HIT MYSELF.
STAY DOWN!

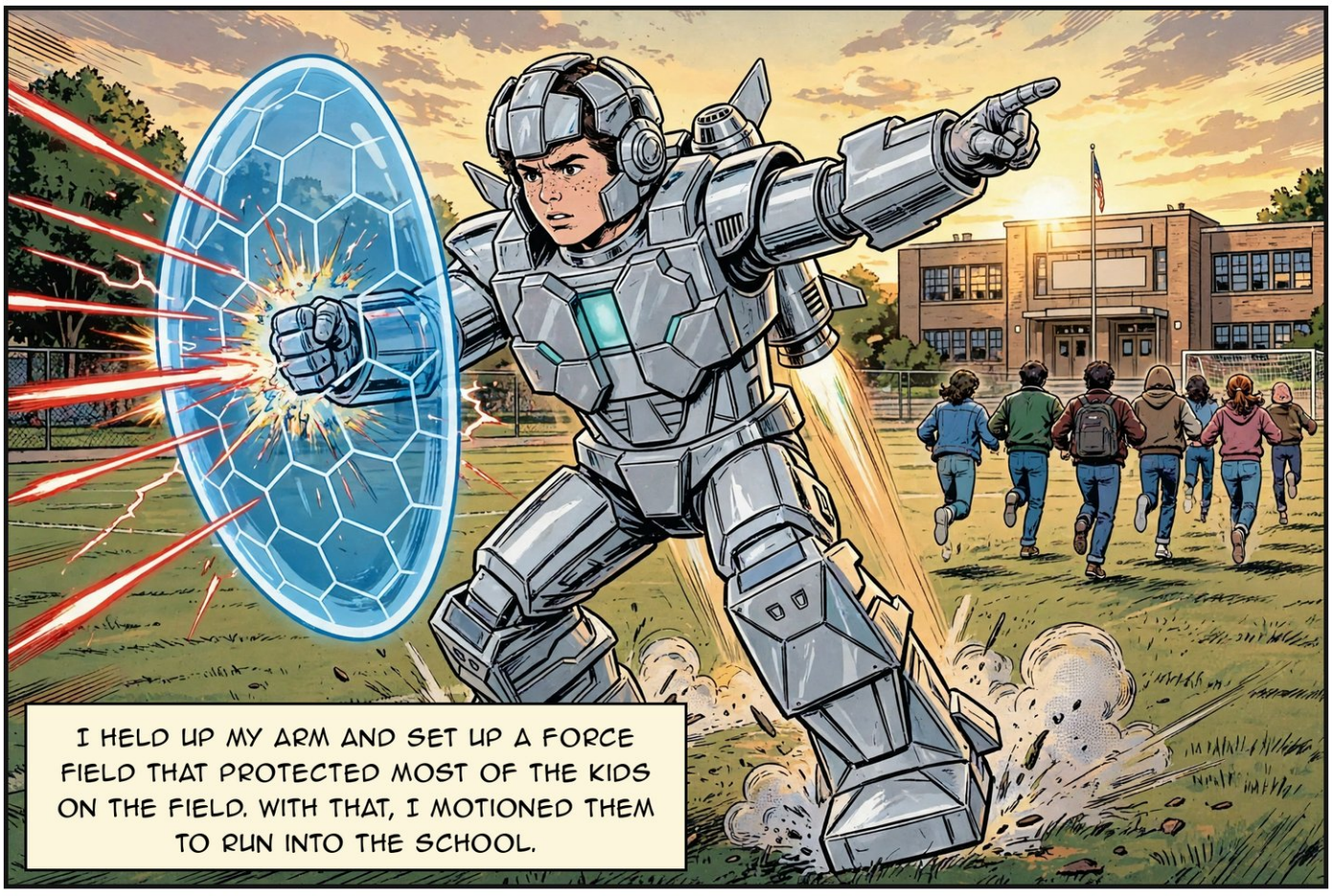

THE PLANE FLEW PAST AND BEGAN TO TURN AROUND FOR ANOTHER ATTACK. I HAD NO CHOICE BUT ACTIVATED THE X-O SUIT ON MY BODY AND INSTANTLY ARMOR CRAWLED OUT TO PROTECT ME.

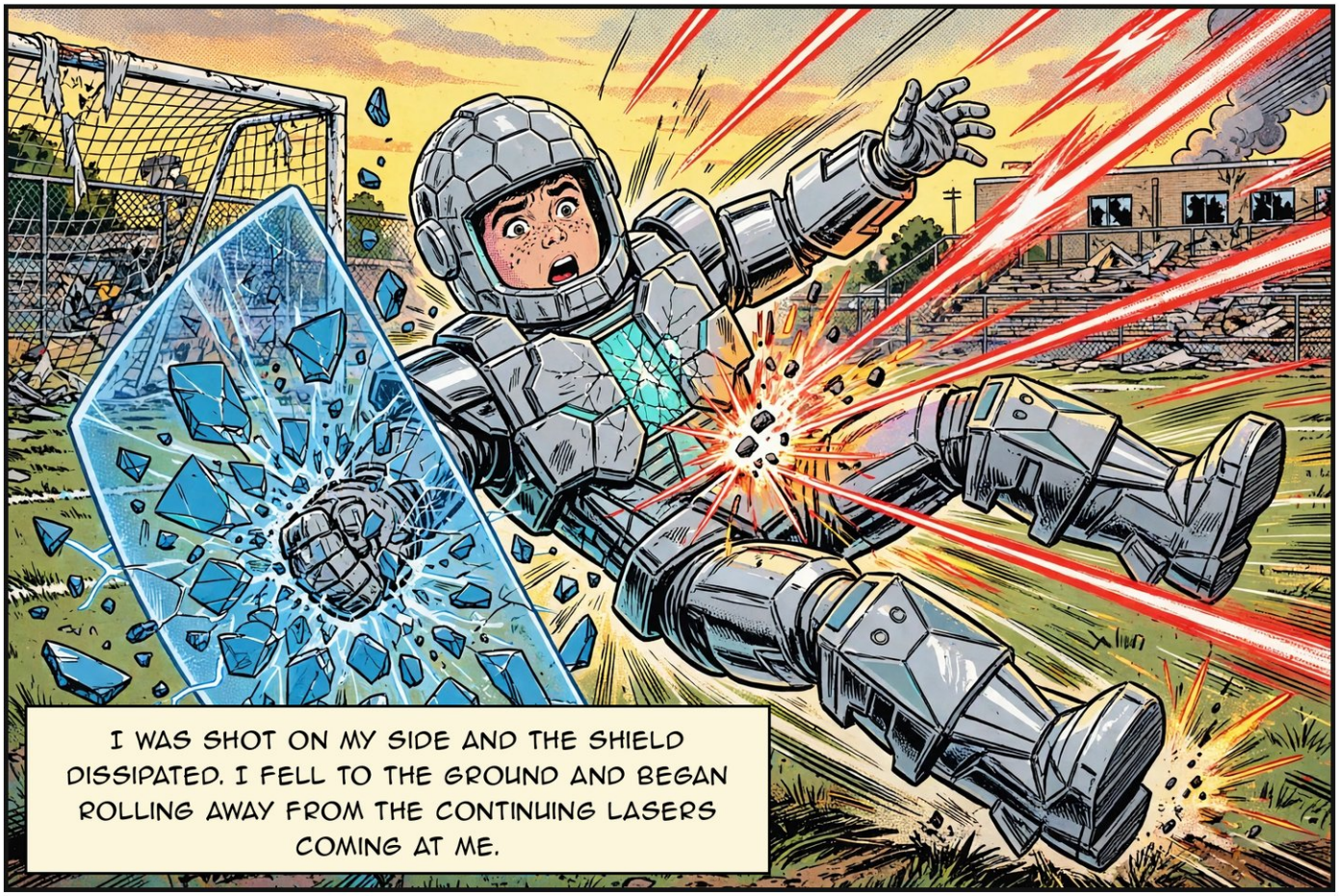

I BEGAN RUNNING INTO THE MIDDLE FIELD AND TOLD EVERYONE TO STAY DOWN AND CRAWL TO SAFETY.


THE PLANE CAME AROUND AGAIN, AND I FIRED MY ARM LASER AT IT. IT HIT THE BROADSIDE AND THE PLANE WOBBLED.

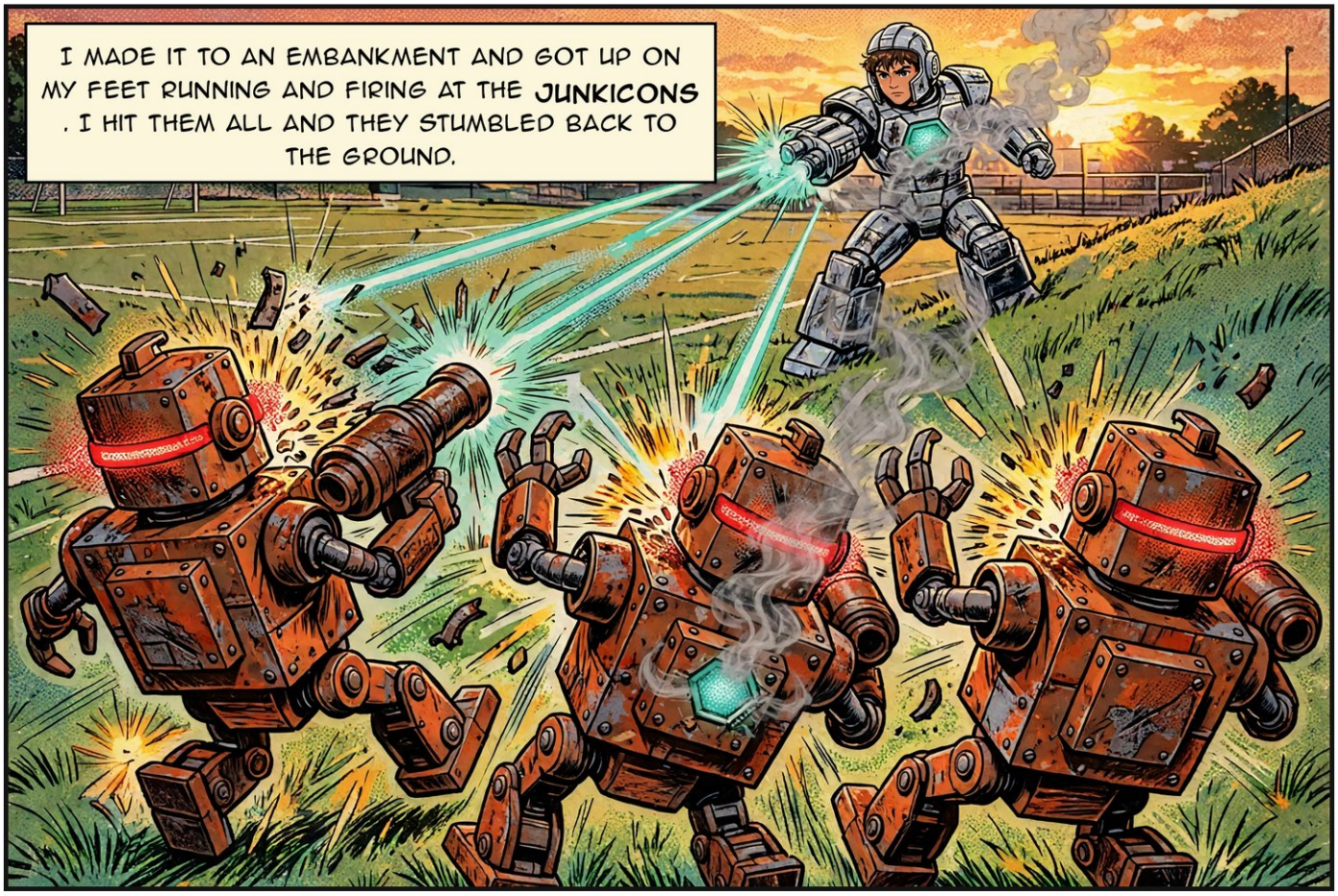

THEN FALLING FROM THE PLANE CAME THREE DEVICES THAT CHANGED INTO **JUNKICON** MINI ROBOTS. THEY LANDED ON THE GROUND WITH A THUD AND BEGAN FIRING AT ME.

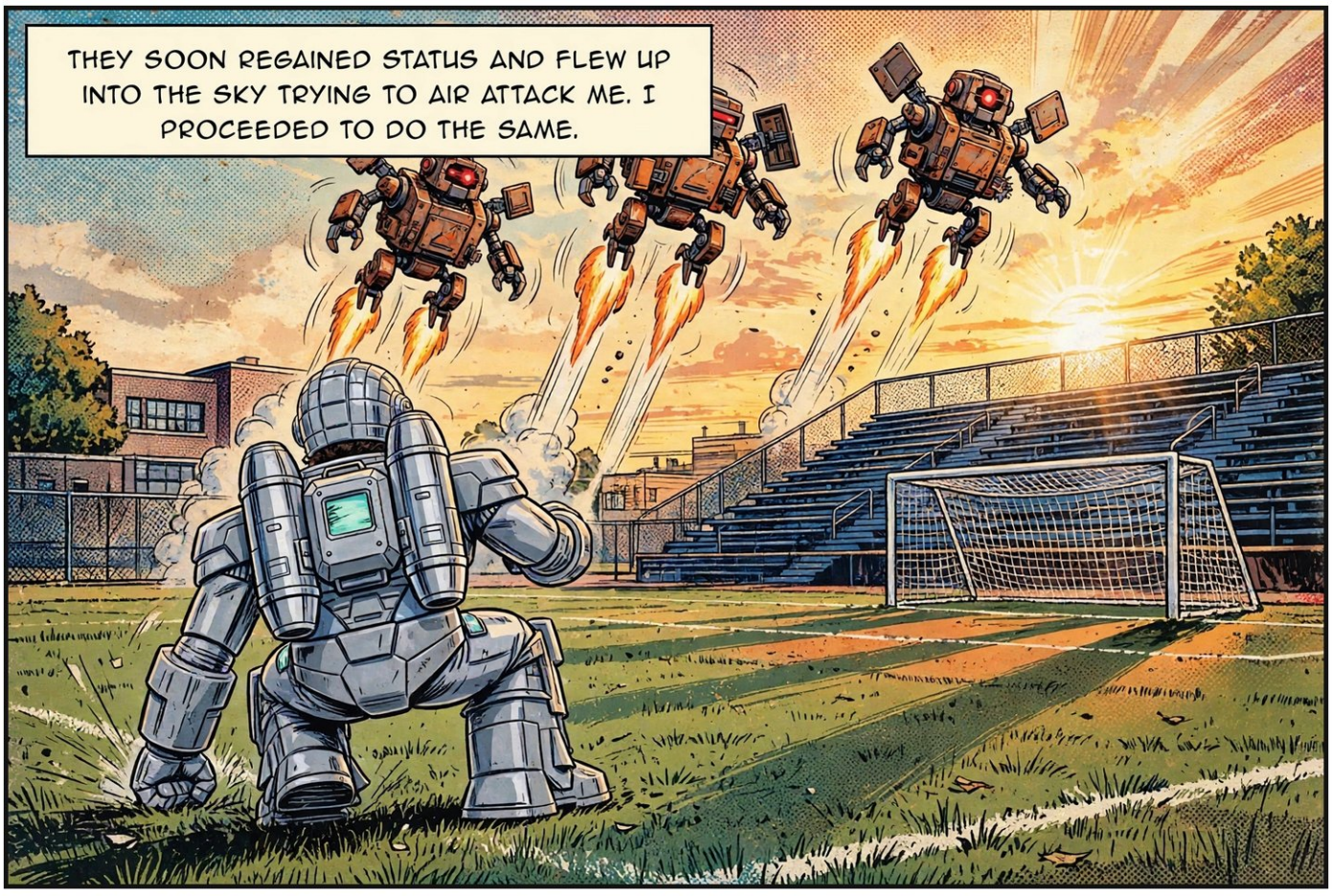

KRA-BOOM!

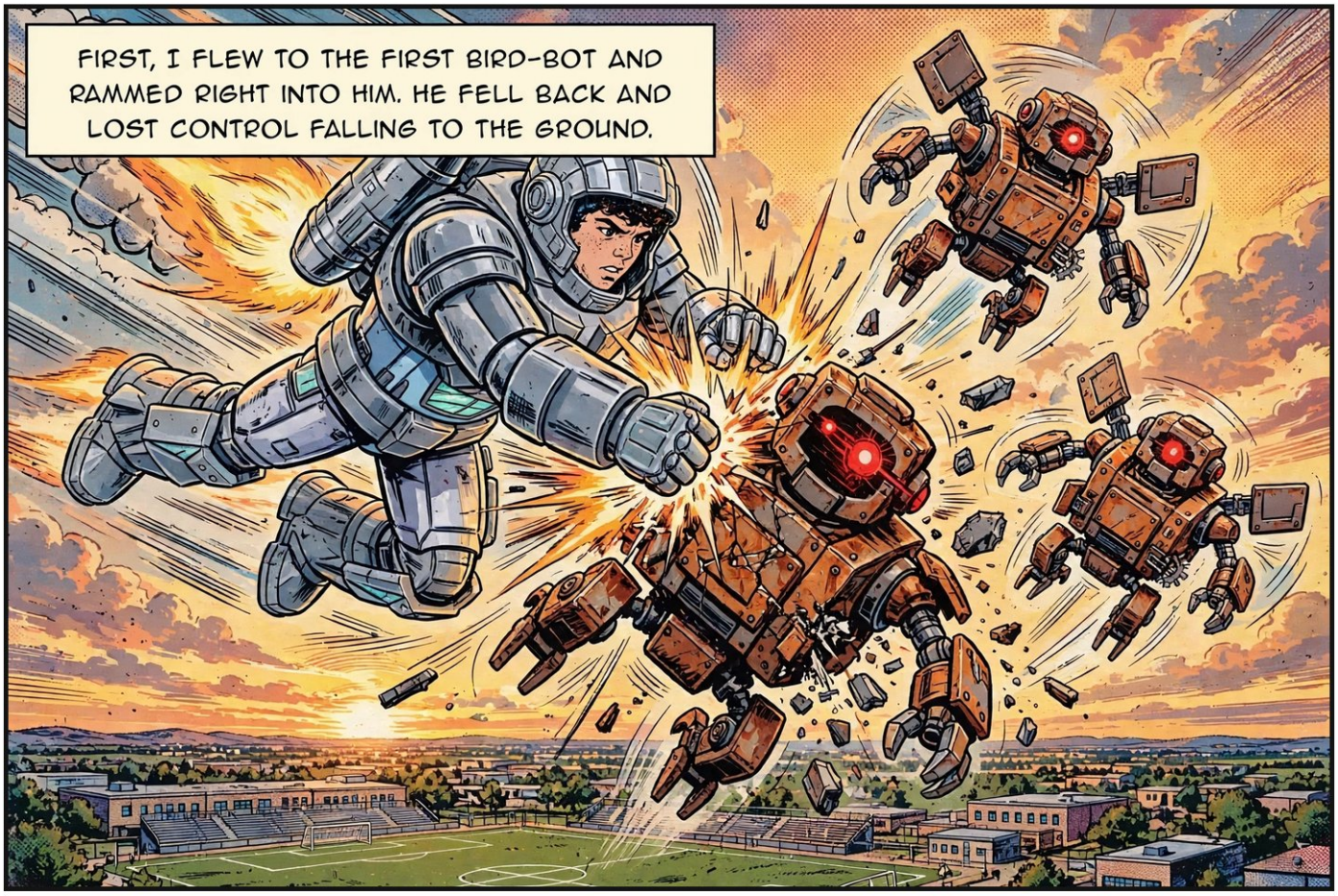

I HELD UP MY ARM AND SET UP A FORCE FIELD THAT PROTECTED MOST OF THE KIDS ON THE FIELD. WITH THAT, I MOTIONED THEM TO RUN INTO THE SCHOOL.

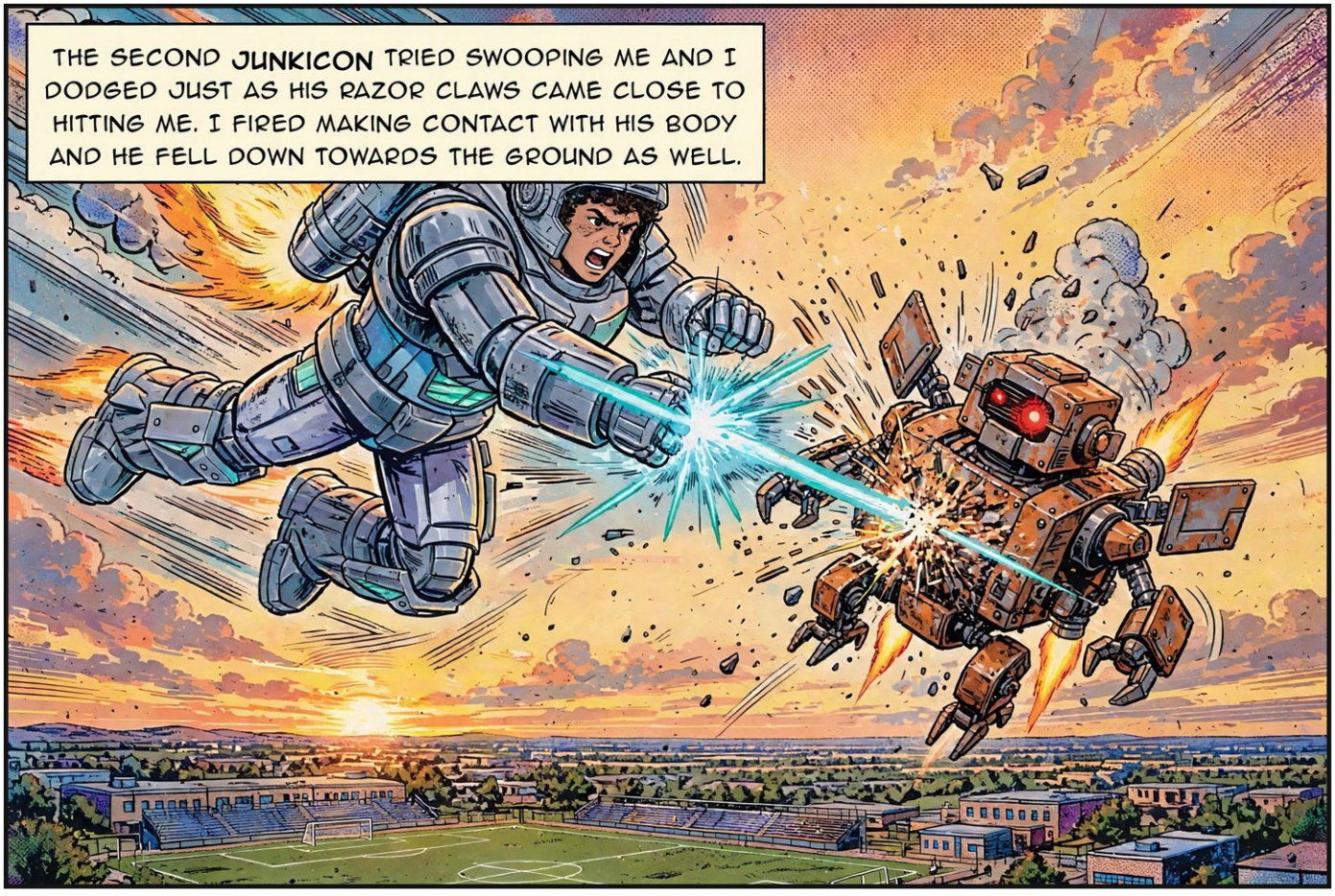

I WAS SHOT ON MY SIDE AND THE SHIELD DISSIPATED. I FELL TO THE GROUND AND BEGAN ROLLING AWAY FROM THE CONTINUING LASERS COMING AT ME.

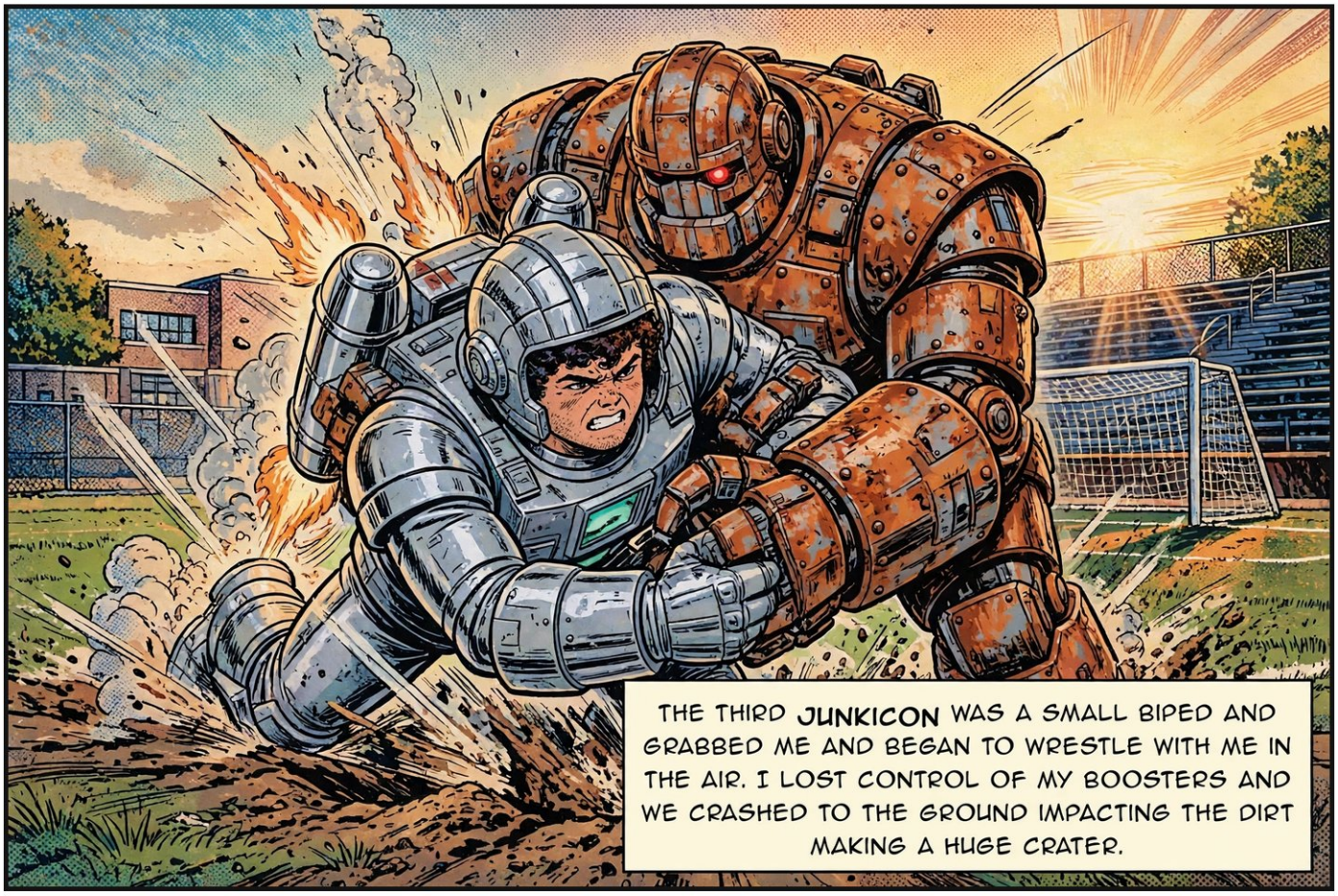

DURING THAT TIME, I MADE A CALL FOR HELP TO MY **BATTLE-BASE** .

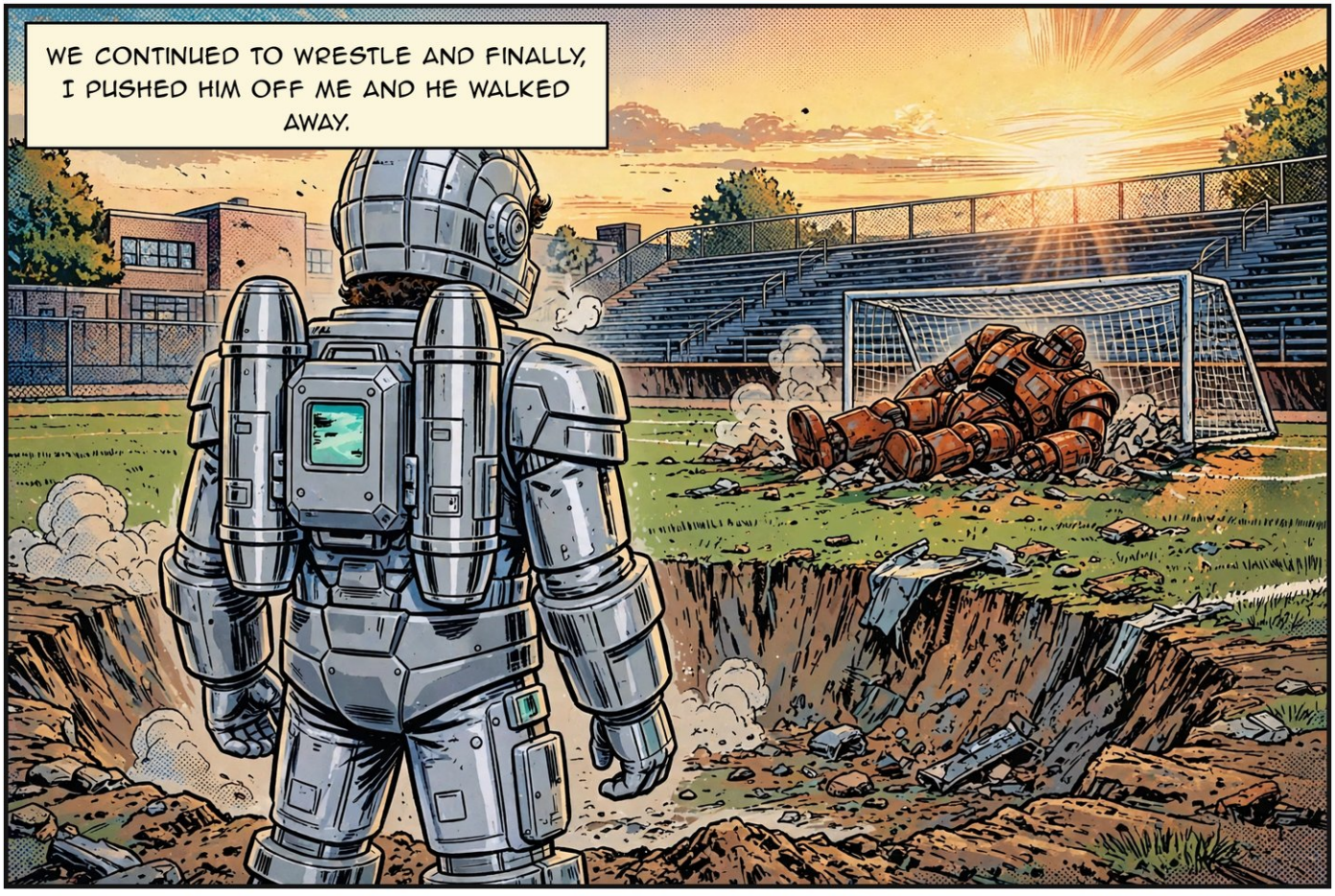

I MADE IT TO AN EMBANKMENT AND GOT UP ON MY FEET RUNNING AND FIRING AT THE JUNKICONS . I HIT THEM ALL AND THEY STUMBLED BACK TO THE GROUND.

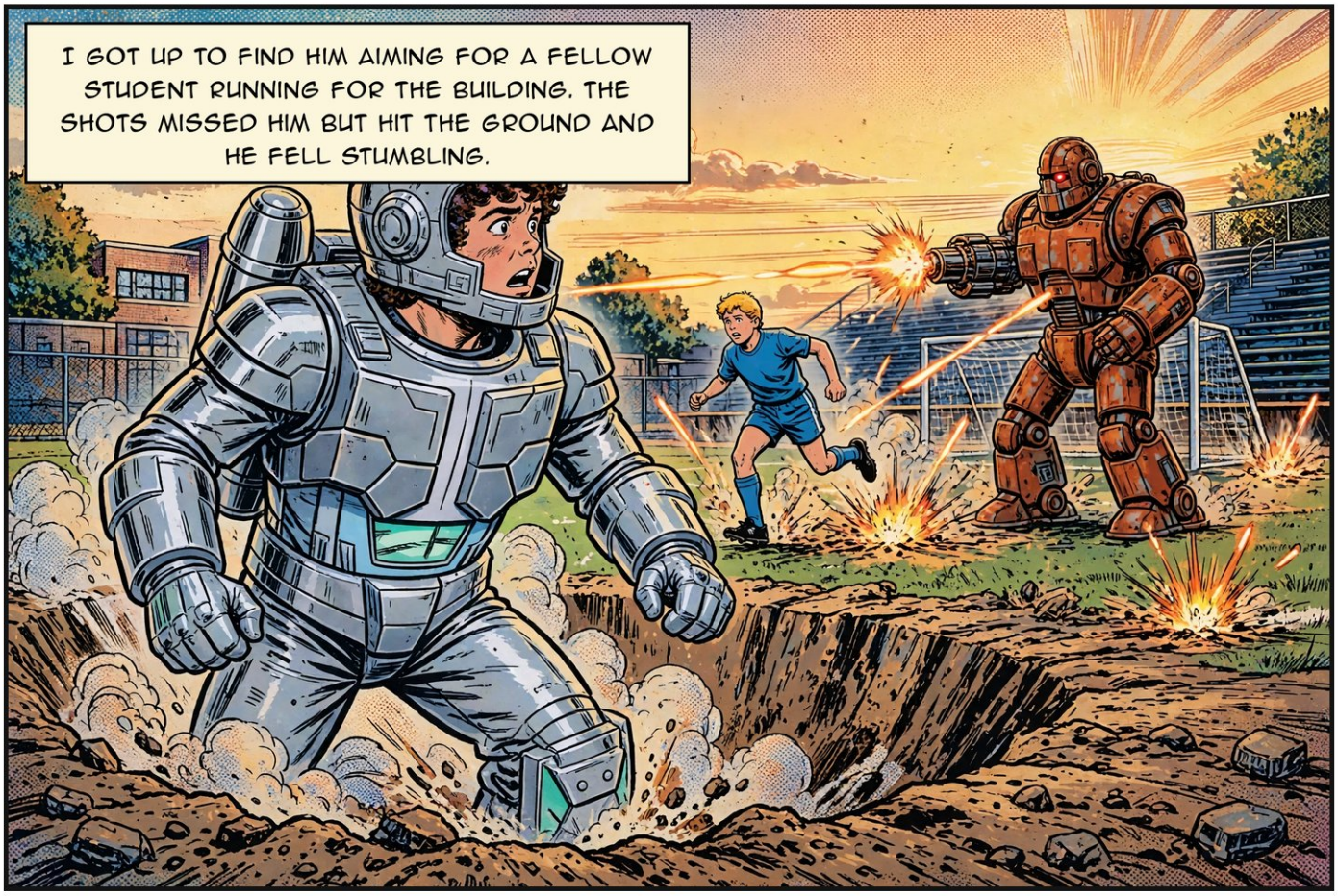

THEY SOON REGAINED STATUS AND FLEW UP INTO THE SKY TRYING TO AIR ATTACK ME. I PROCEEDED TO DO THE SAME.

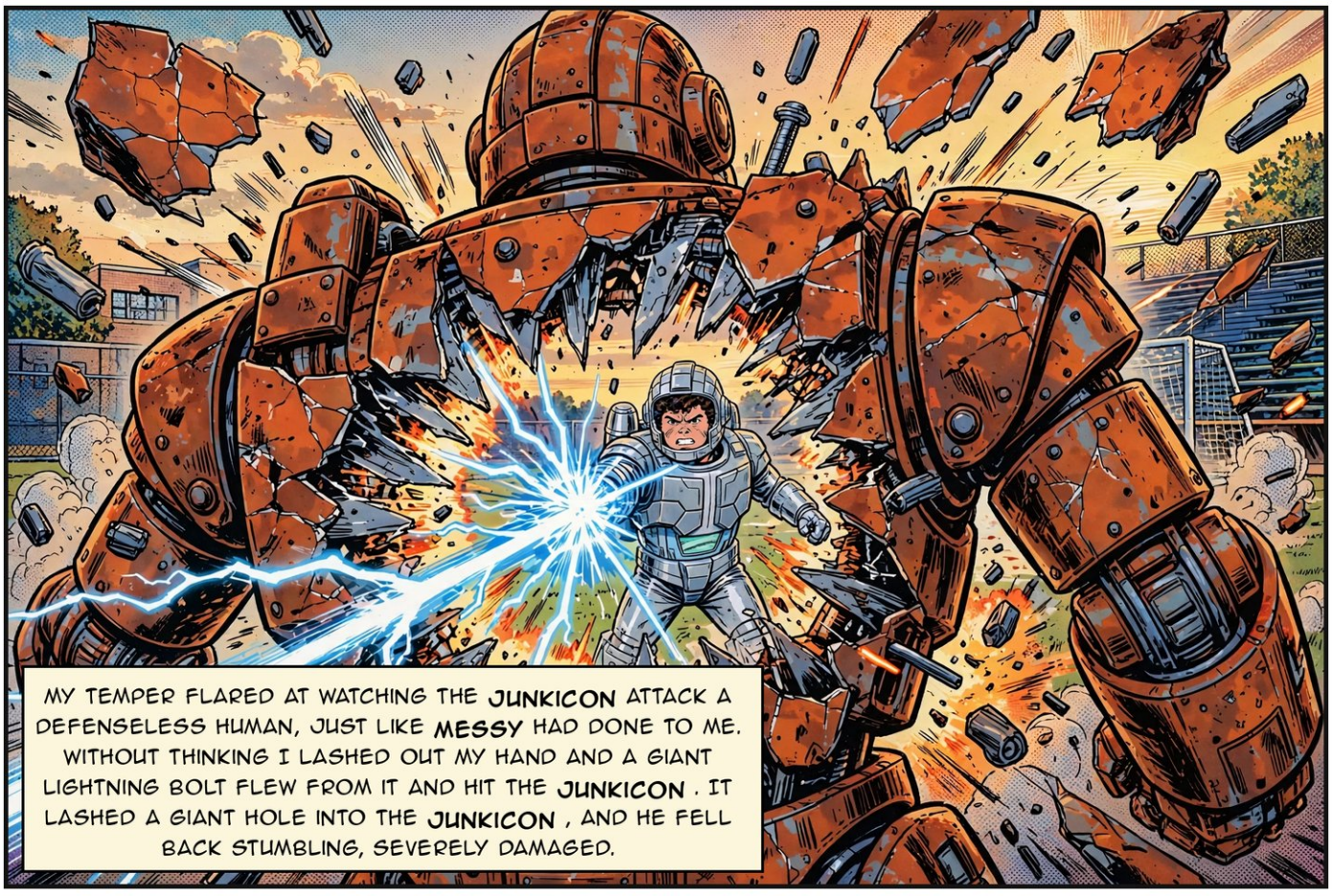

FIRST, I FLEW TO THE FIRST BIRD-BOT AND RAMMED RIGHT INTO HIM. HE FELL BACK AND LOST CONTROL FALLING TO THE GROUND.

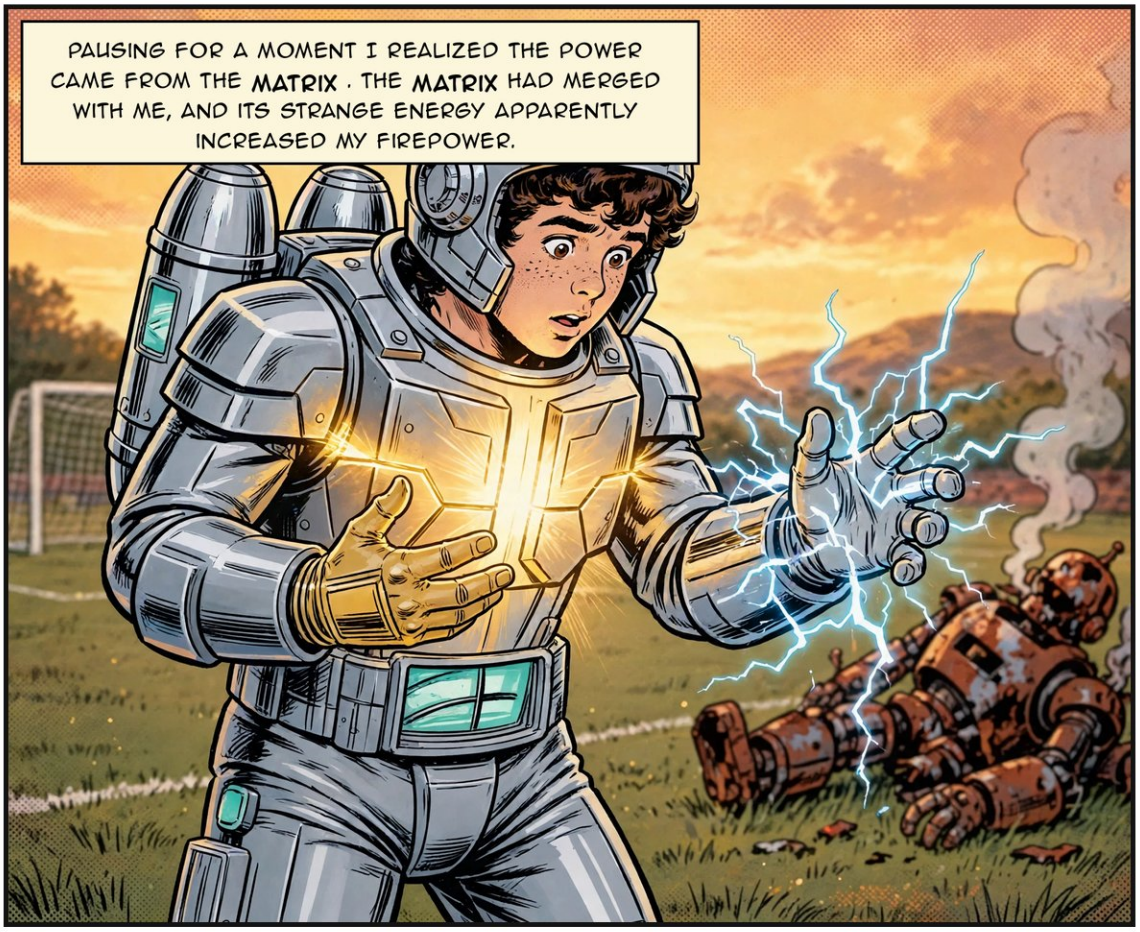

THE SECOND **JUNKICON** TRIED SWOOPING ME AND I DODGED JUST AS HIS RAZOR CLAWS CAME CLOSE TO HITTING ME. I FIRED MAKING CONTACT WITH HIS BODY AND HE FELL DOWN TOWARDS THE GROUND AS WELL.

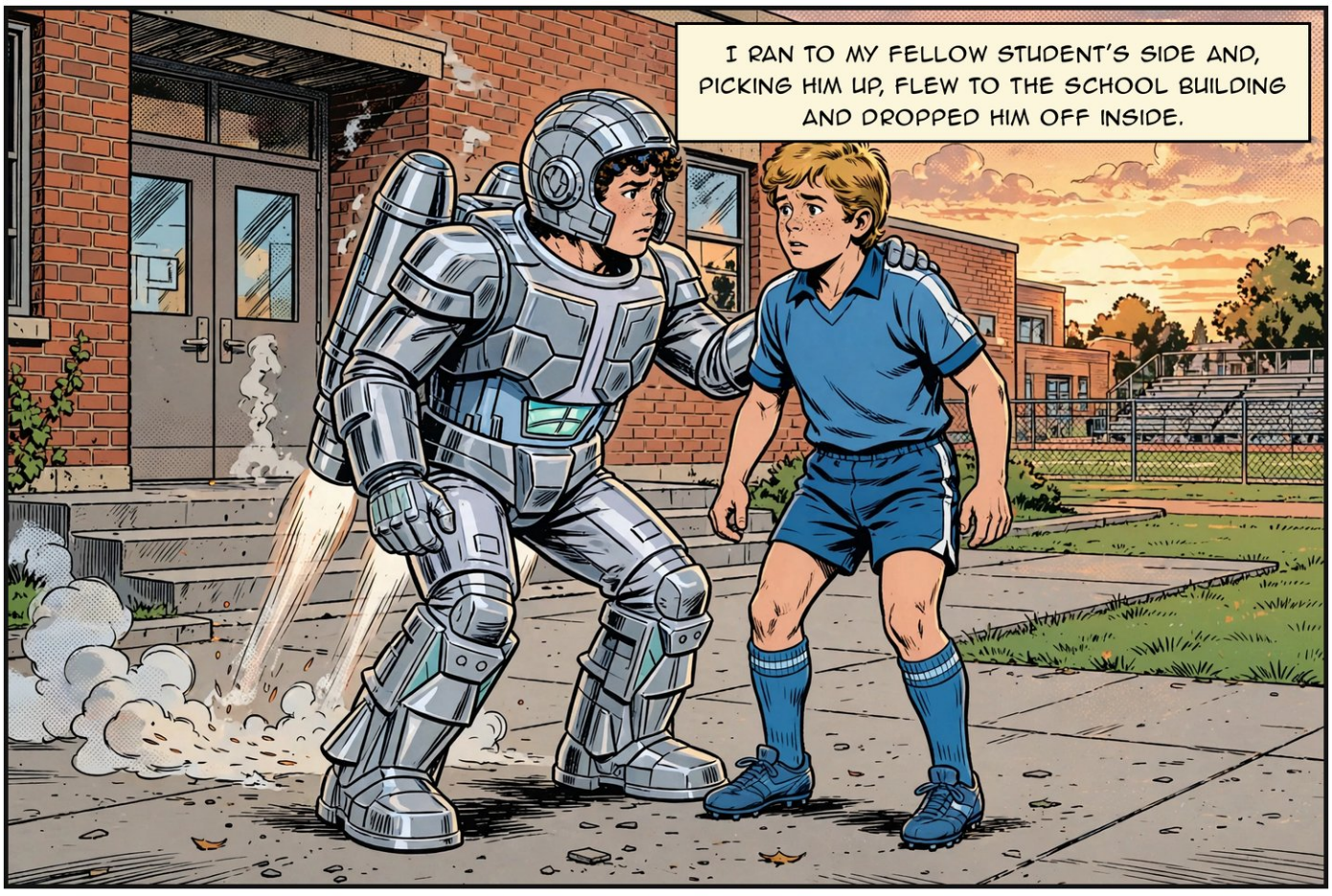

THE THIRD **JUNKICON** WAS A SMALL BIPED AND GRABBED ME AND BEGAN TO WRESTLE WITH ME IN THE AIR. I LOST CONTROL OF MY BOOSTERS AND WE CRASHED TO THE GROUND IMPACTING THE DIRT MAKING A HUGE CRATER.

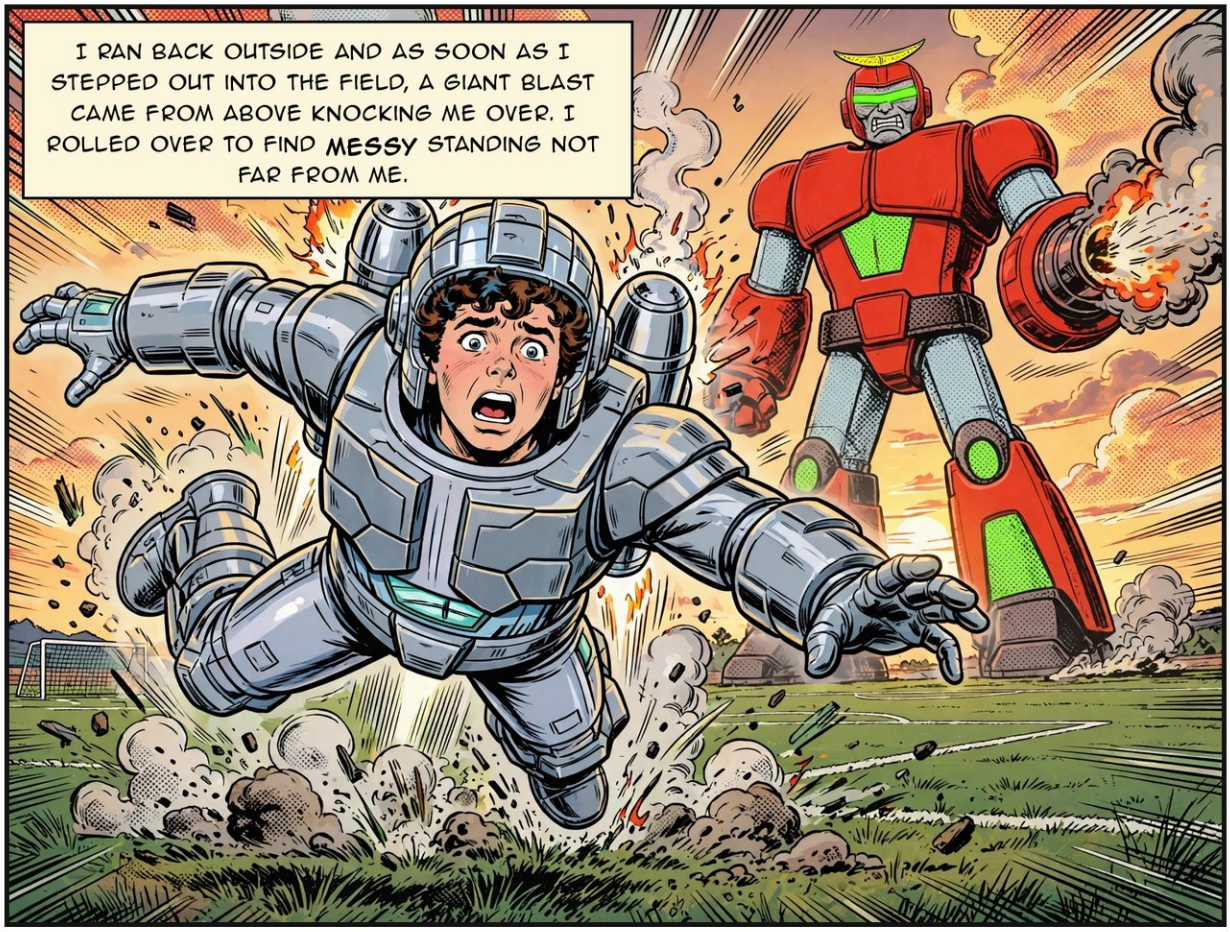

WE CONTINUED TO WRESTLE AND FINALLY, I PUSHED HIM OFF ME AND HE WALKED AWAY.

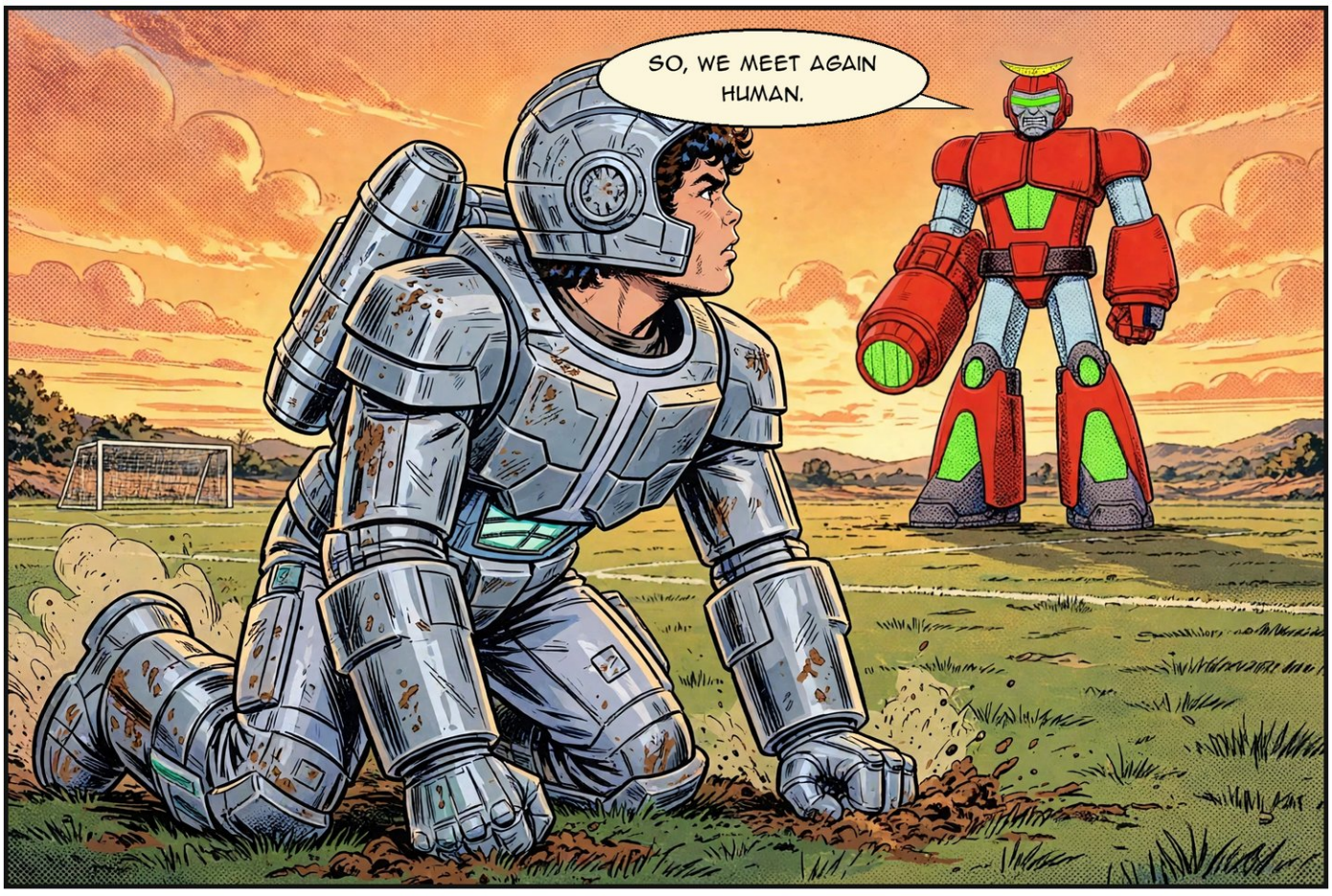

I GOT UP TO FIND HIM AIMING FOR A FELLOW STUDENT RUNNING FOR THE BUILDING. THE SHOTS MISSED HIM BUT HIT THE GROUND AND HE FELL STUMBLING.


MY TEMPER FLARED AT WATCHING THE **JUNKICON** ATTACK A DEFENSELESS HUMAN, JUST LIKE **MESSY** HAD DONE TO ME. WITHOUT THINKING I LASHED OUT MY HAND AND A GIANT LIGHTNING BOLT FLEW FROM IT AND HIT THE **JUNKICON** . IT LASHED A GIANT HOLE INTO THE **JUNKICON** , AND HE FELL BACK STUMBLING, SEVERELY DAMAGED.

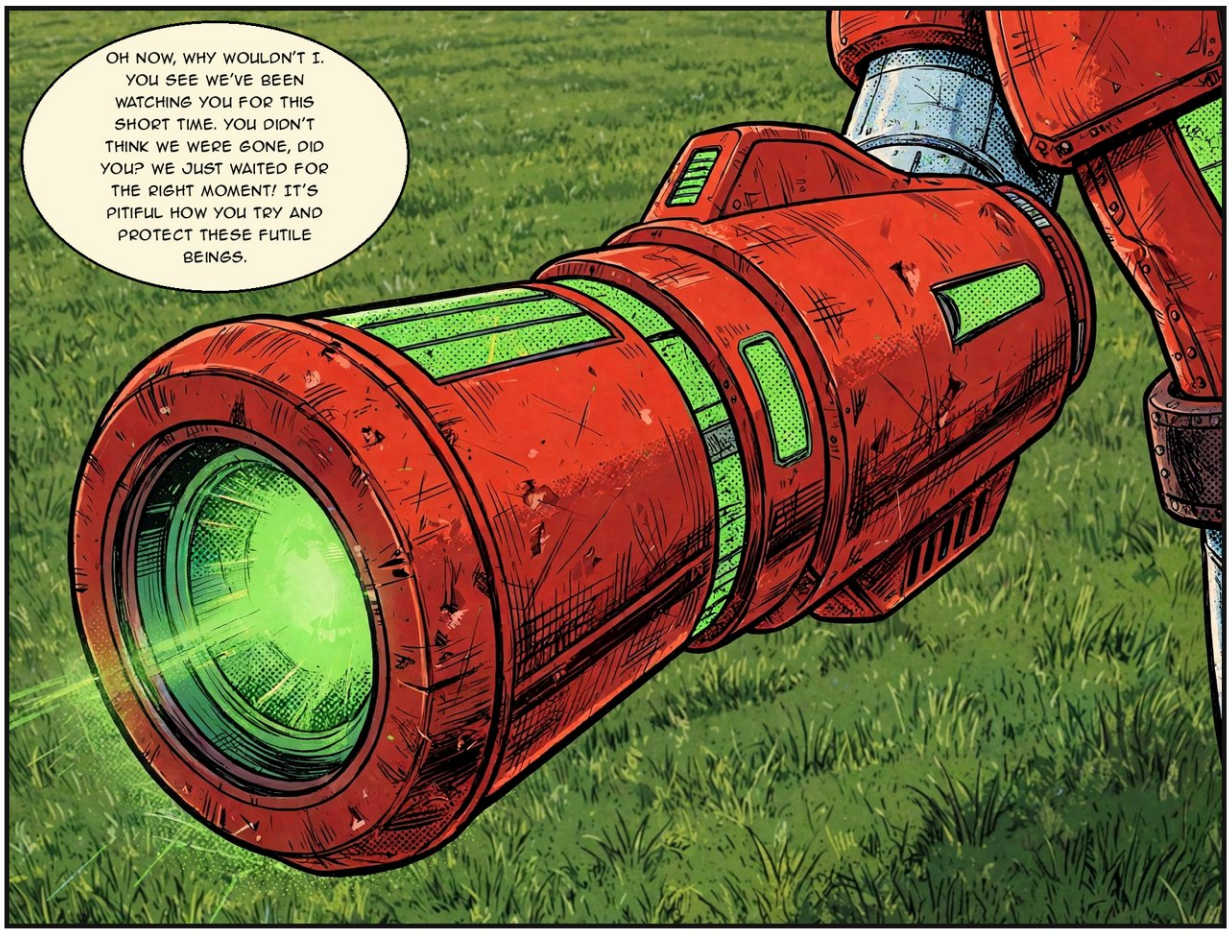

PAUSING FOR A MOMENT I REALIZED THE POWER CAME FROM THE MATRIX . THE MATRIX HAD MERGED WITH ME, AND ITS STRANGE ENERGY APPARENTLY INCREASED MY FIREPOWER.


I RAN TO MY FELLOW STUDENT'S SIDE AND, PICKING HIM UP, FLEW TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND DROPPED HIM OFF INSIDE.

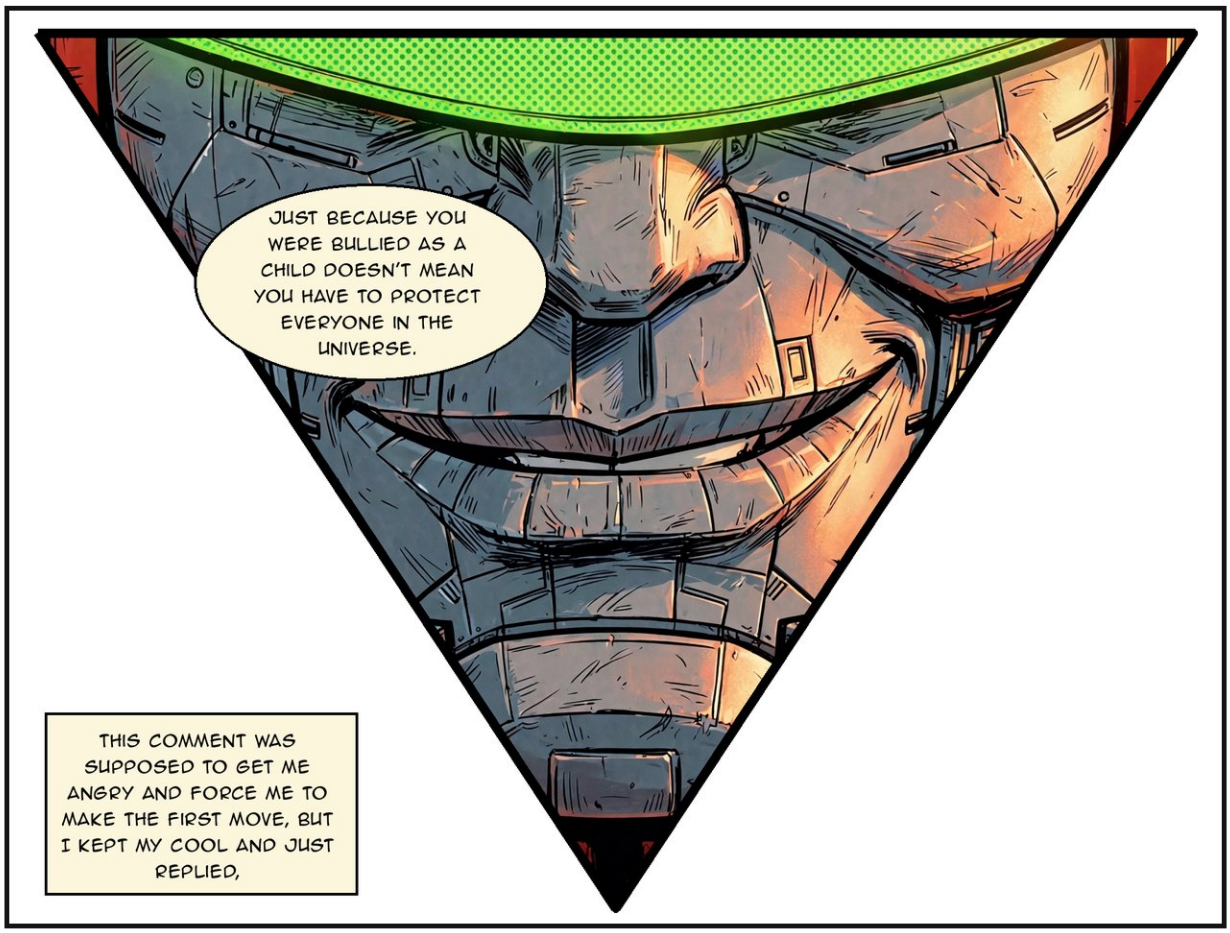

I RAN BACK OUTSIDE AND AS SOON AS I STEPPED OUT INTO THE FIELD, A GIANT BLAST CAME FROM ABOVE KNOCKING ME OVER. I ROLLED OVER TO FIND MESSY STANDING NOT FAR FROM ME.

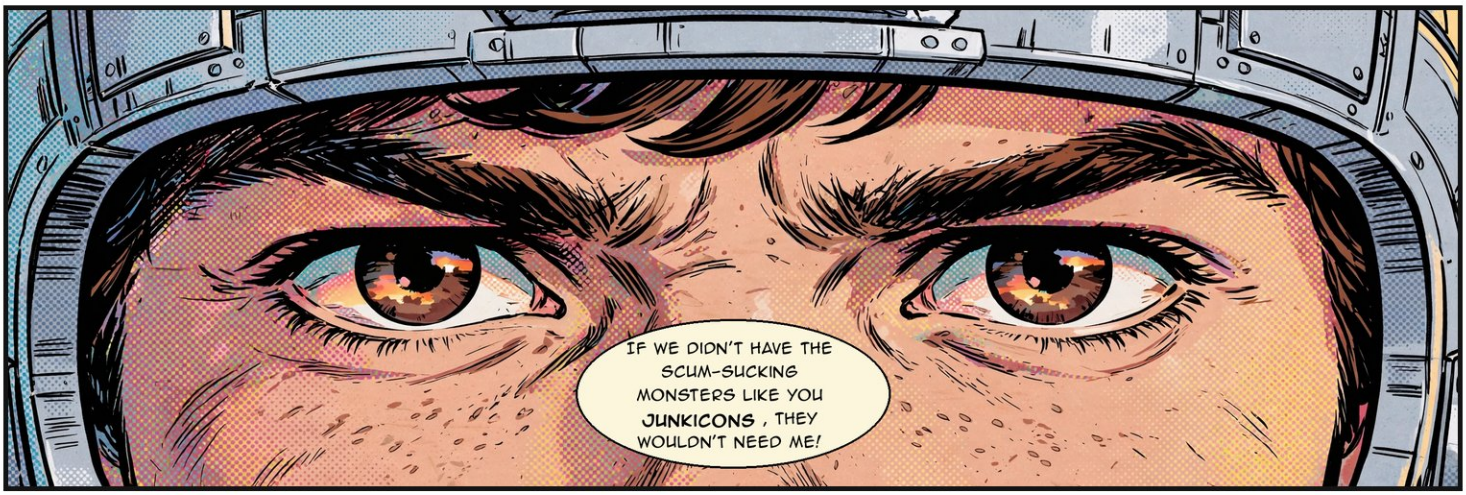

SO, WE MEET AGAIN HUMAN.

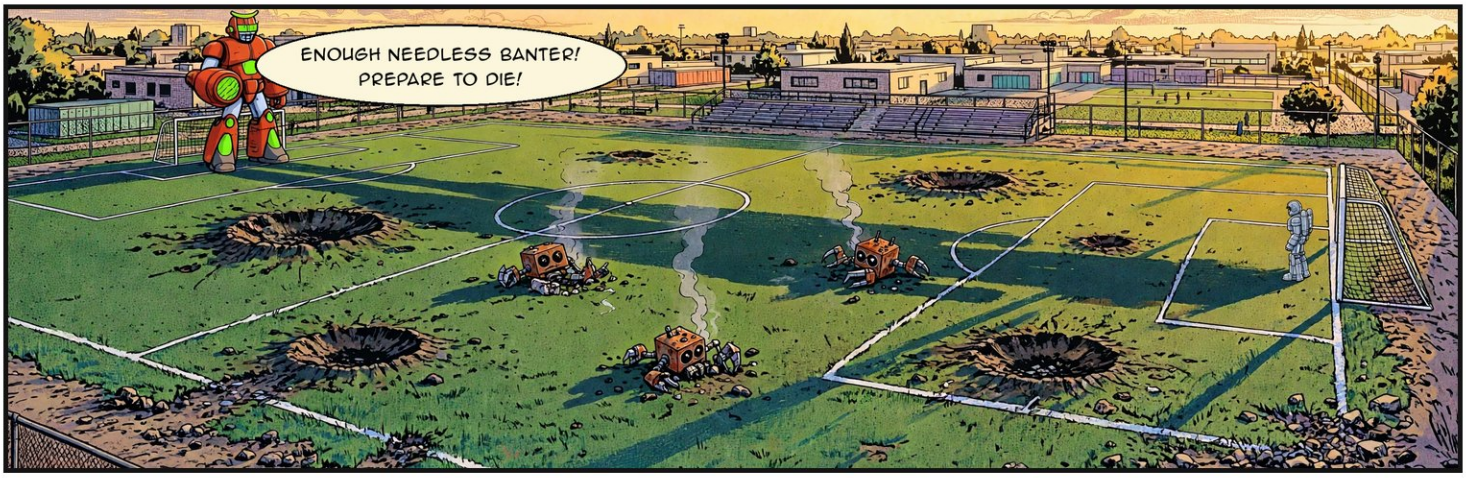

HOW DARE YOU COME HERE! HOW DARE YOU ATTACK MY HOME AND SCHOOL!

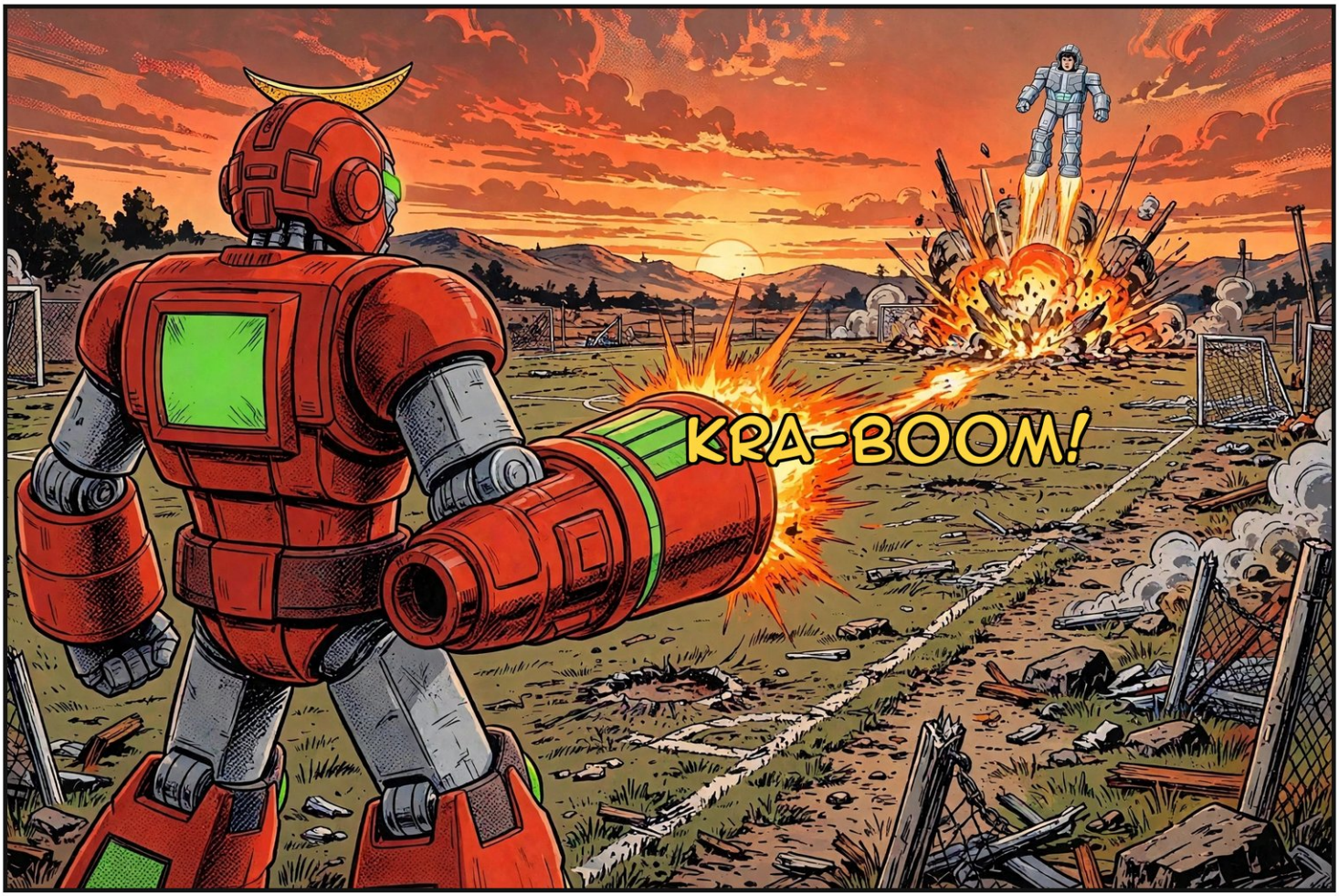

OH NOW, WHY WOULDN'T I. YOU SEE WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR THIS SHORT TIME. YOU DIDN'T THINK WE WERE GONE, DID YOU? WE JUST WAITED FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT! IT'S PITIFUL HOW YOU TRY AND PROTECT THESE FUTILE BEINGS.

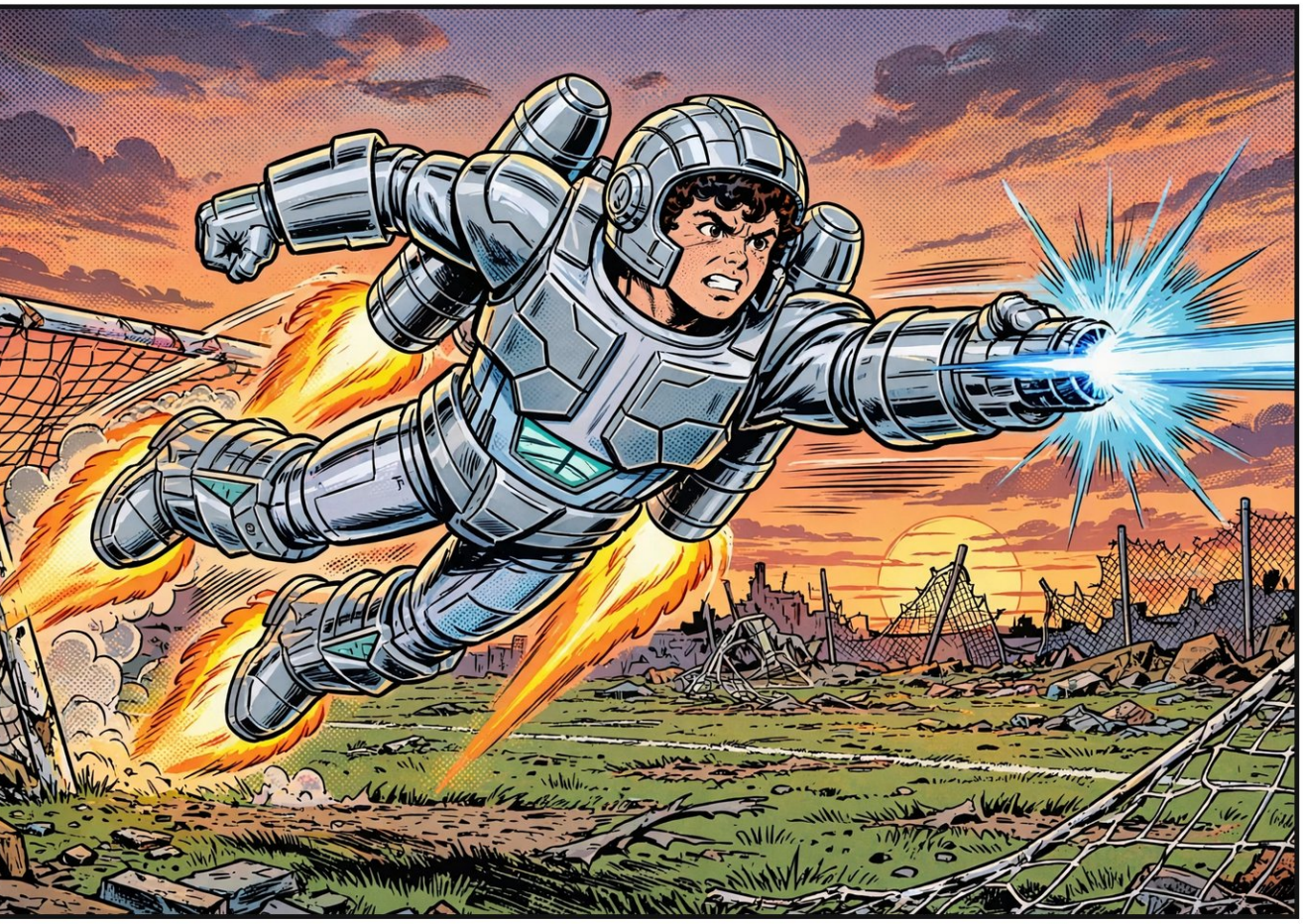

FUTILE TO ONLY A MONSTER! MAY YOU BURN IN HELL **MESSY** , AND I'M TELLING YOU NOW, I WON'T STAND HERE AND LET YOU HARM THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE!

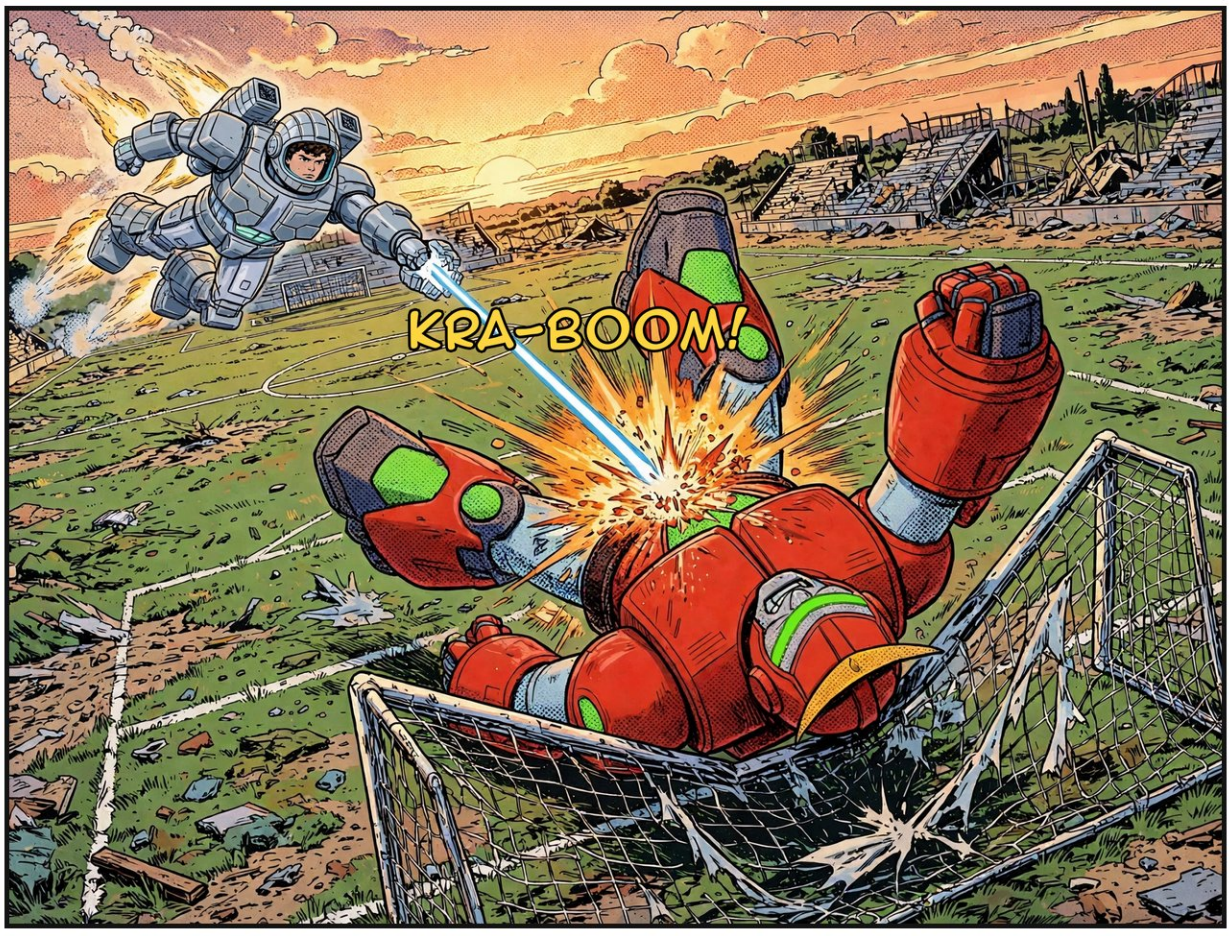

JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE BULLIED AS A CHILD DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO PROTECT EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE.
THIS COMMENT WAS SUPPOSED TO GET ME ANGRY AND FORCE ME TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE, BUT I KEPT MY COOL AND JUST REPLIED,


IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THE SCUM-SUCKING MONSTERS LIKE YOU **JUNKICONS**, THEY WOULDN'T NEED ME!

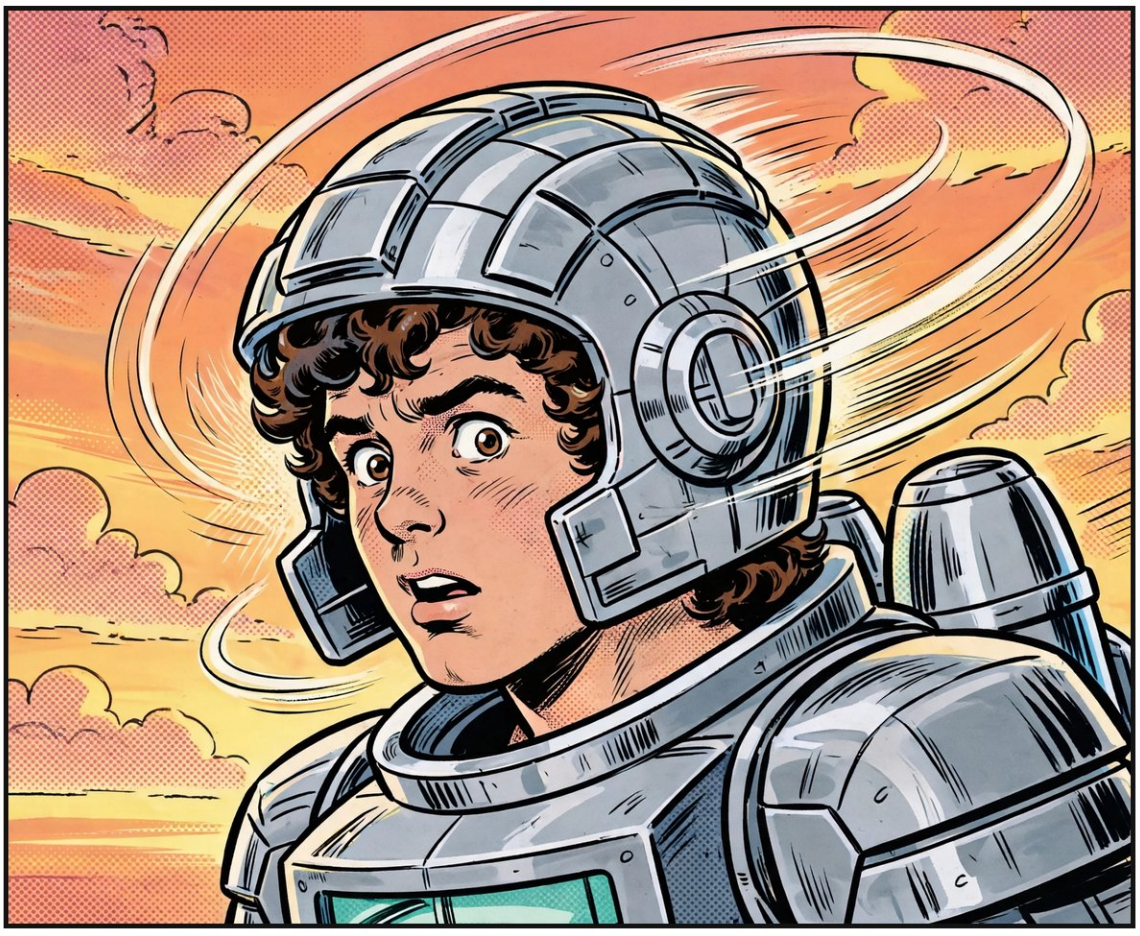

ENOUGH NEEDLESS BANTER! PREPARE TO DIE!

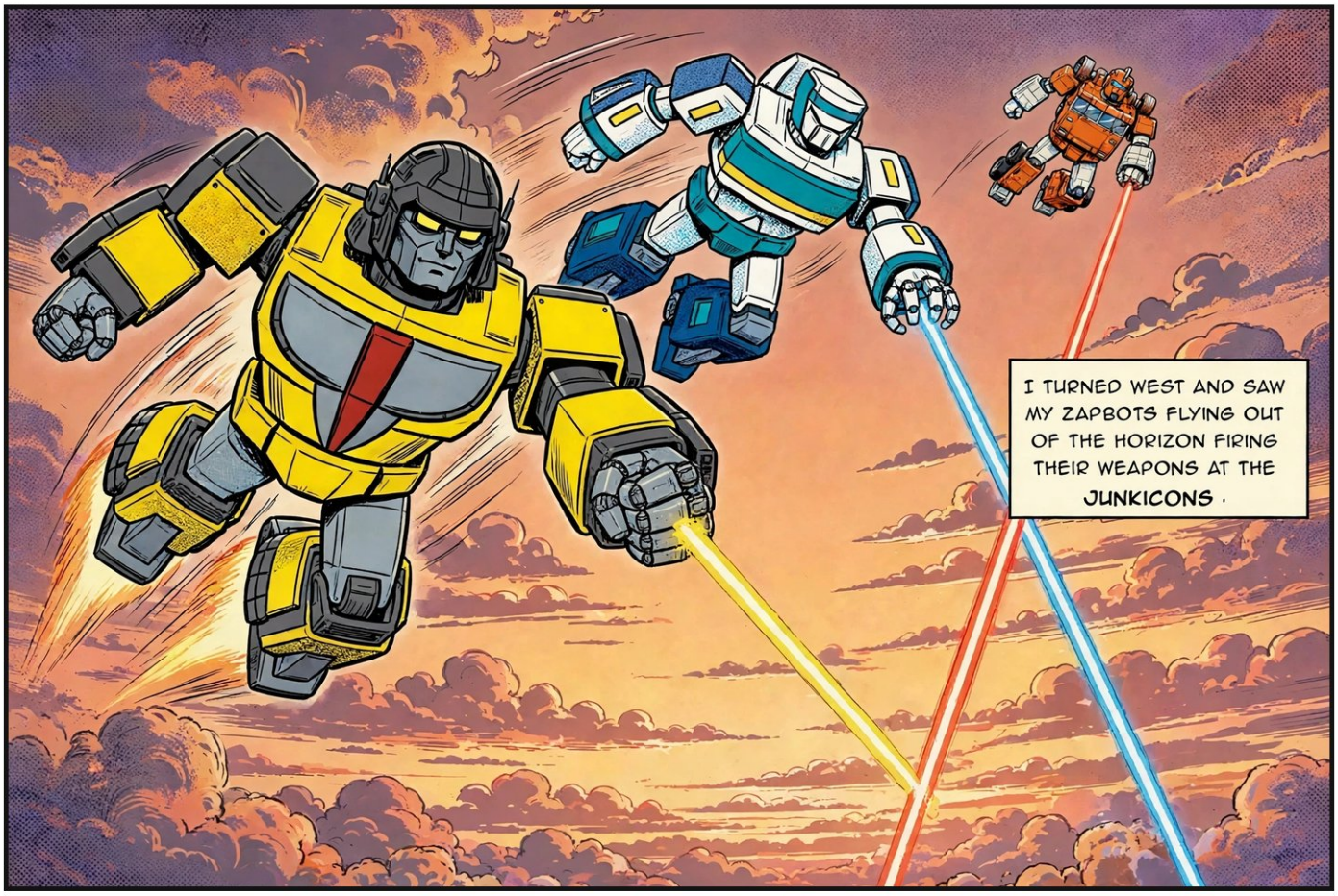

KRA-BOOM!

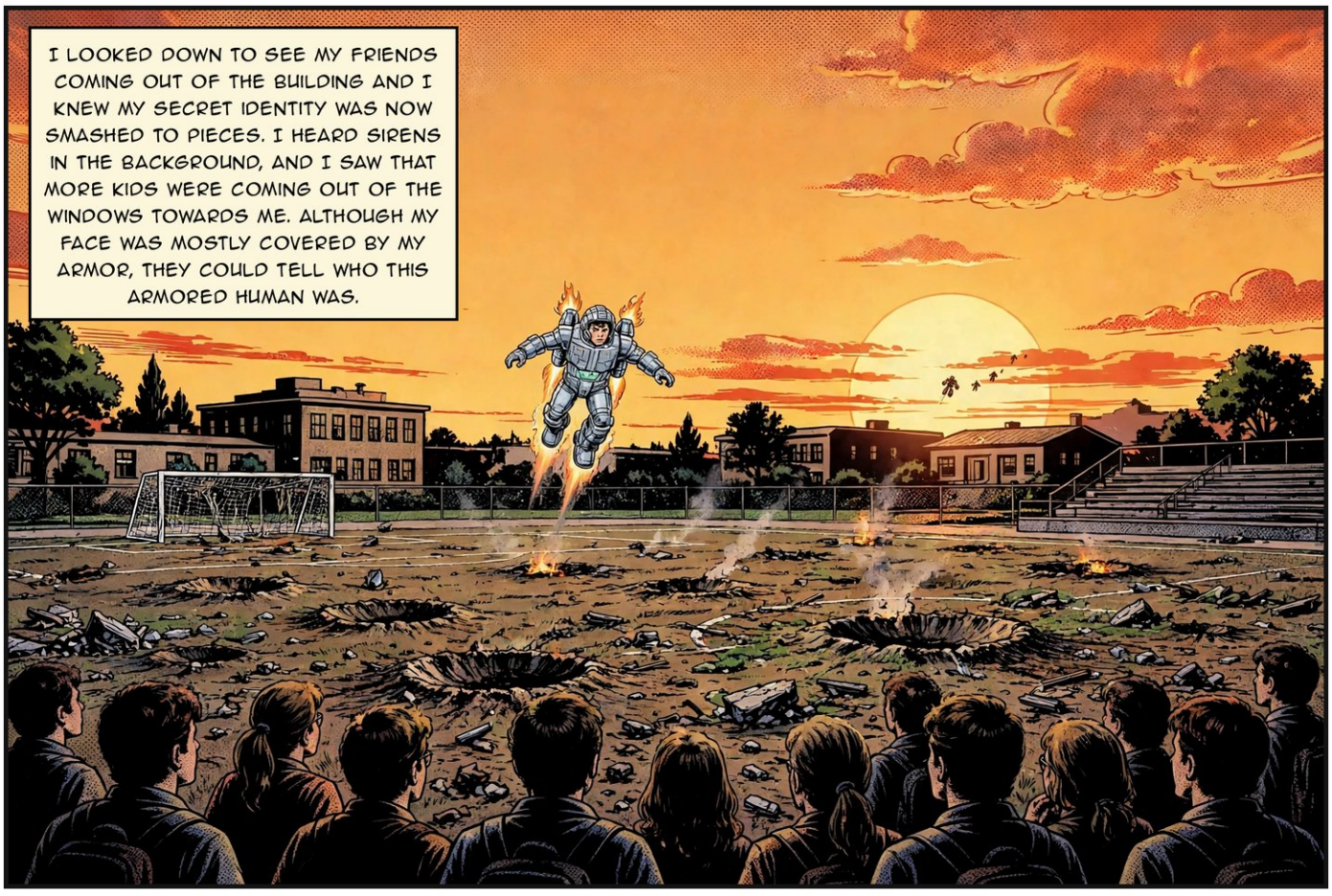


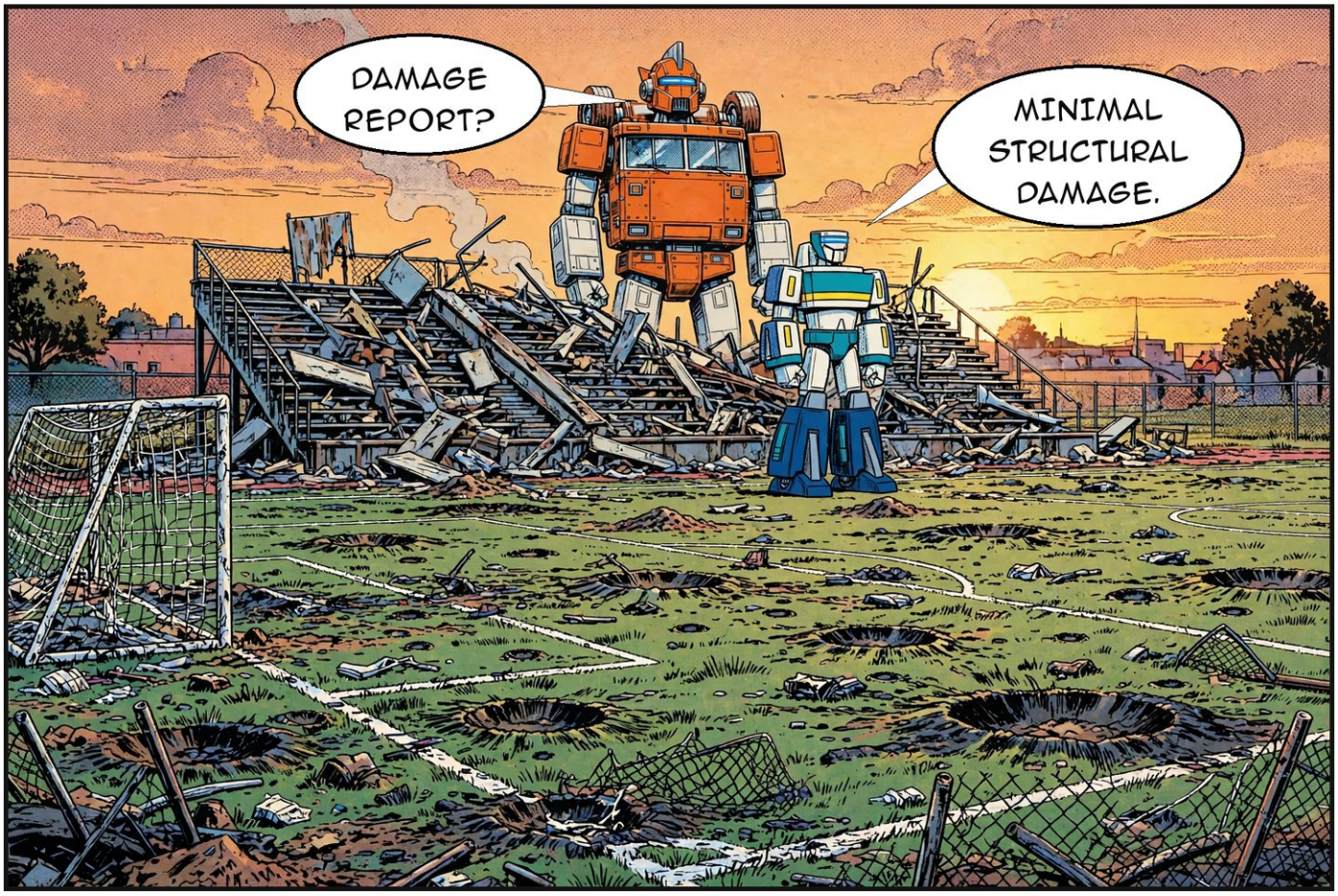

KRA-BOOM!

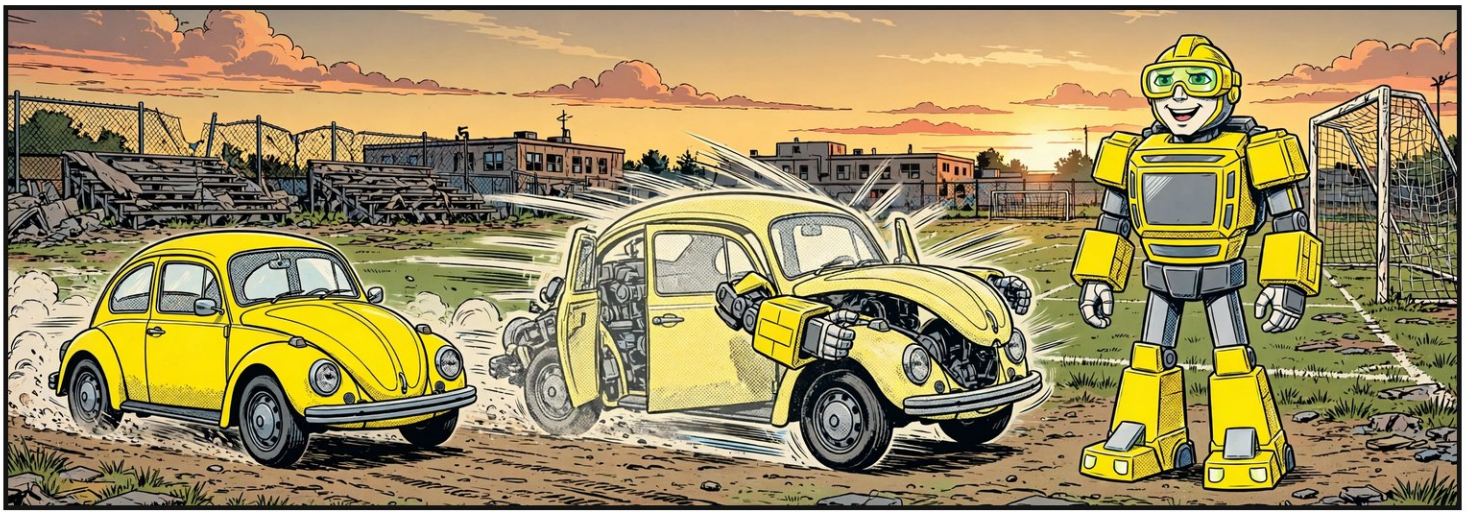

JUNKICONS, RETREAT!

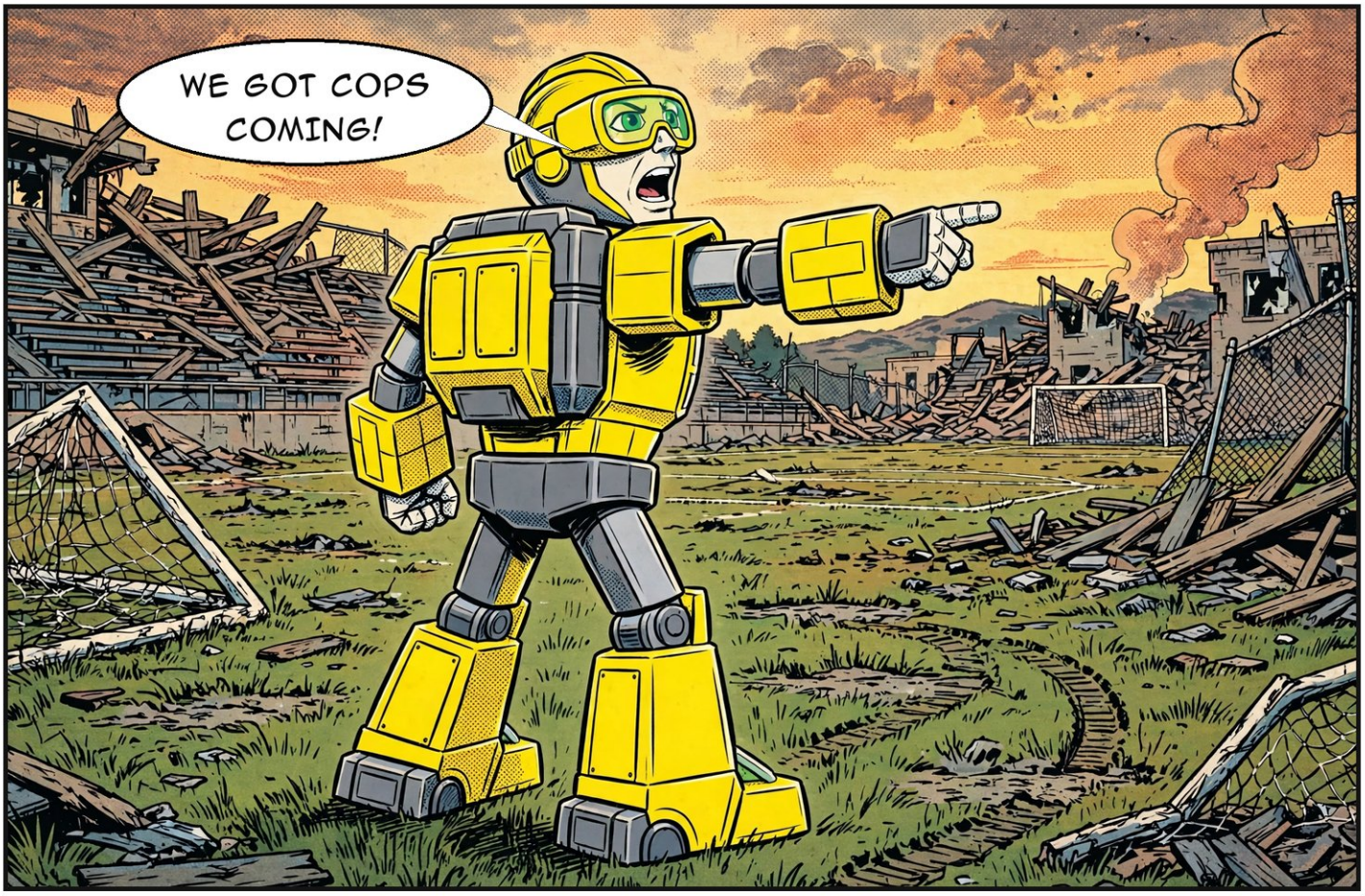


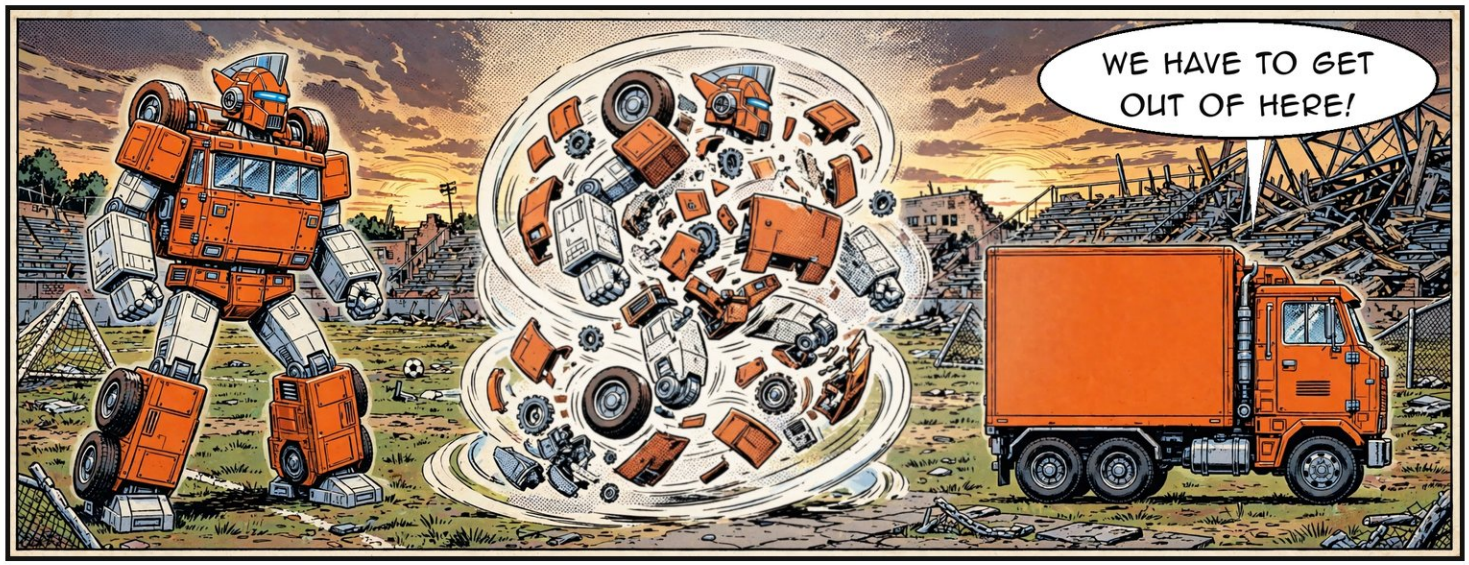

I TURNED WEST AND SAW MY ZAPBOTS FLYING OUT OF THE HORIZON FIRING THEIR WEAPONS AT THE JUNKICONS.

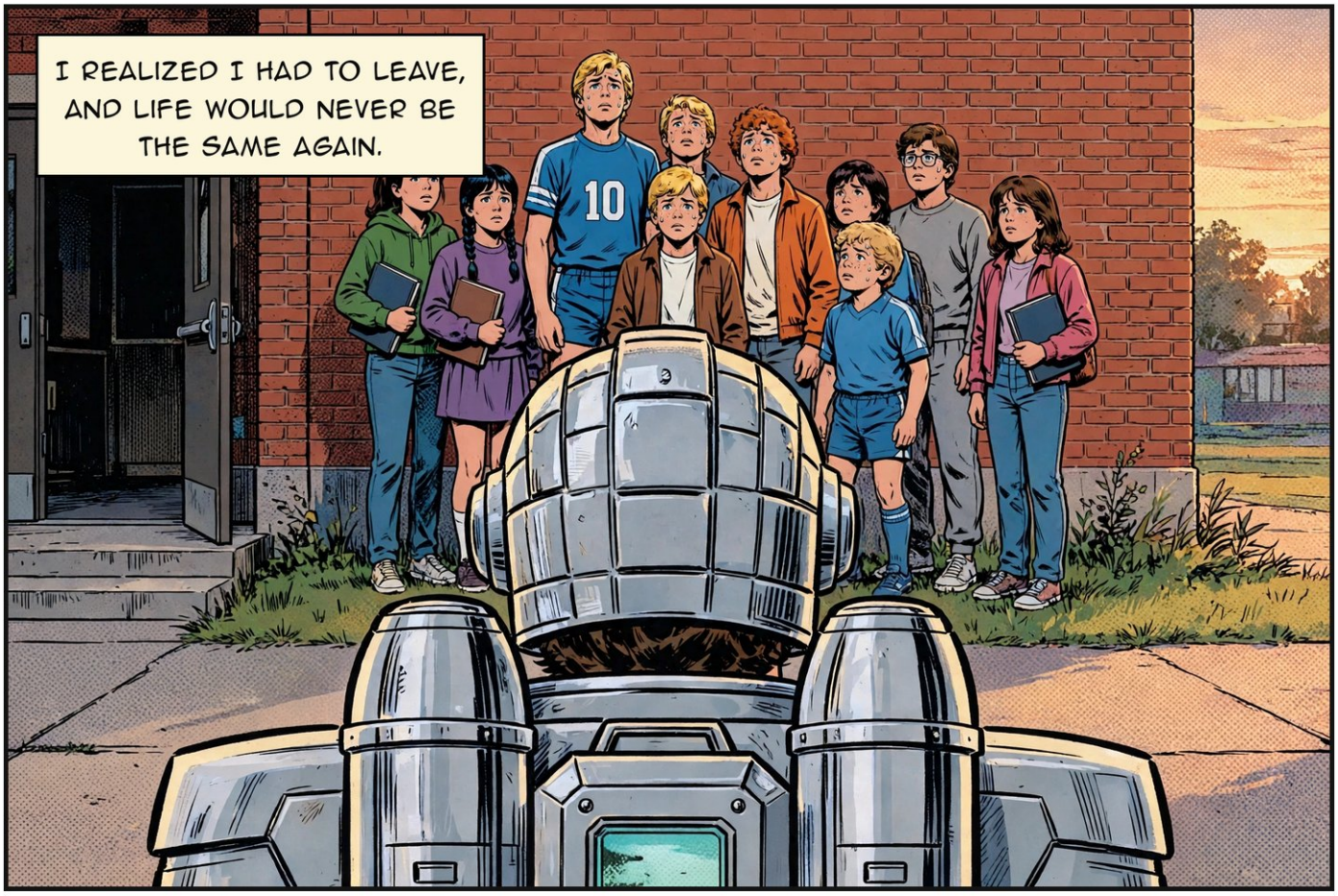

I LOOKED DOWN TO SEE MY FRIENDS COMING OUT OF THE BUILDING AND I KNEW MY SECRET IDENTITY WAS NOW SMASHED TO PIECES. I HEARD SIRENS IN THE BACKGROUND, AND I SAW THAT MORE KIDS WERE COMING OUT OF THE WINDOWS TOWARDS ME. ALTHOUGH MY FACE WAS MOSTLY COVERED BY MY ARMOR, THEY COULD TELL WHO THIS ARMORED HUMAN WAS.

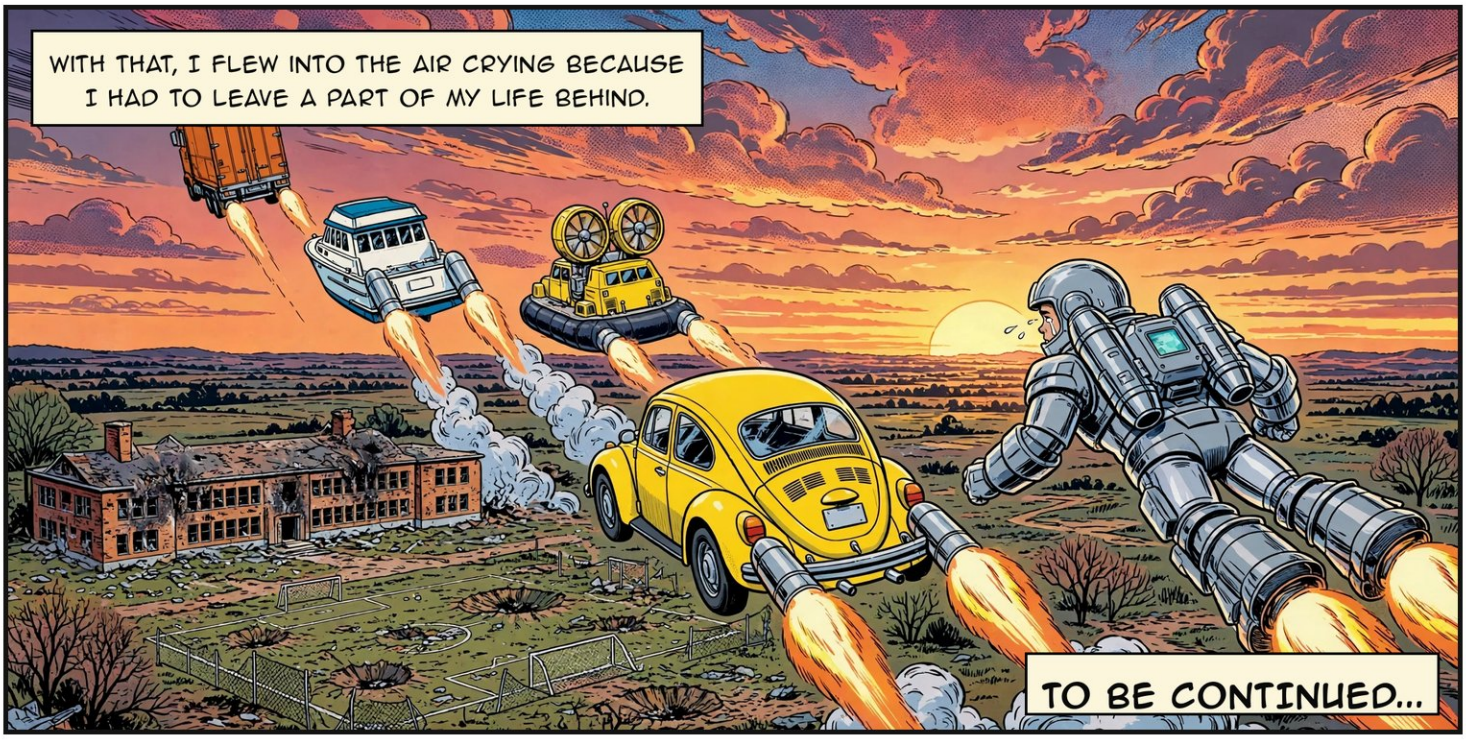

DAMAGE REPORT?
MINIMAL STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

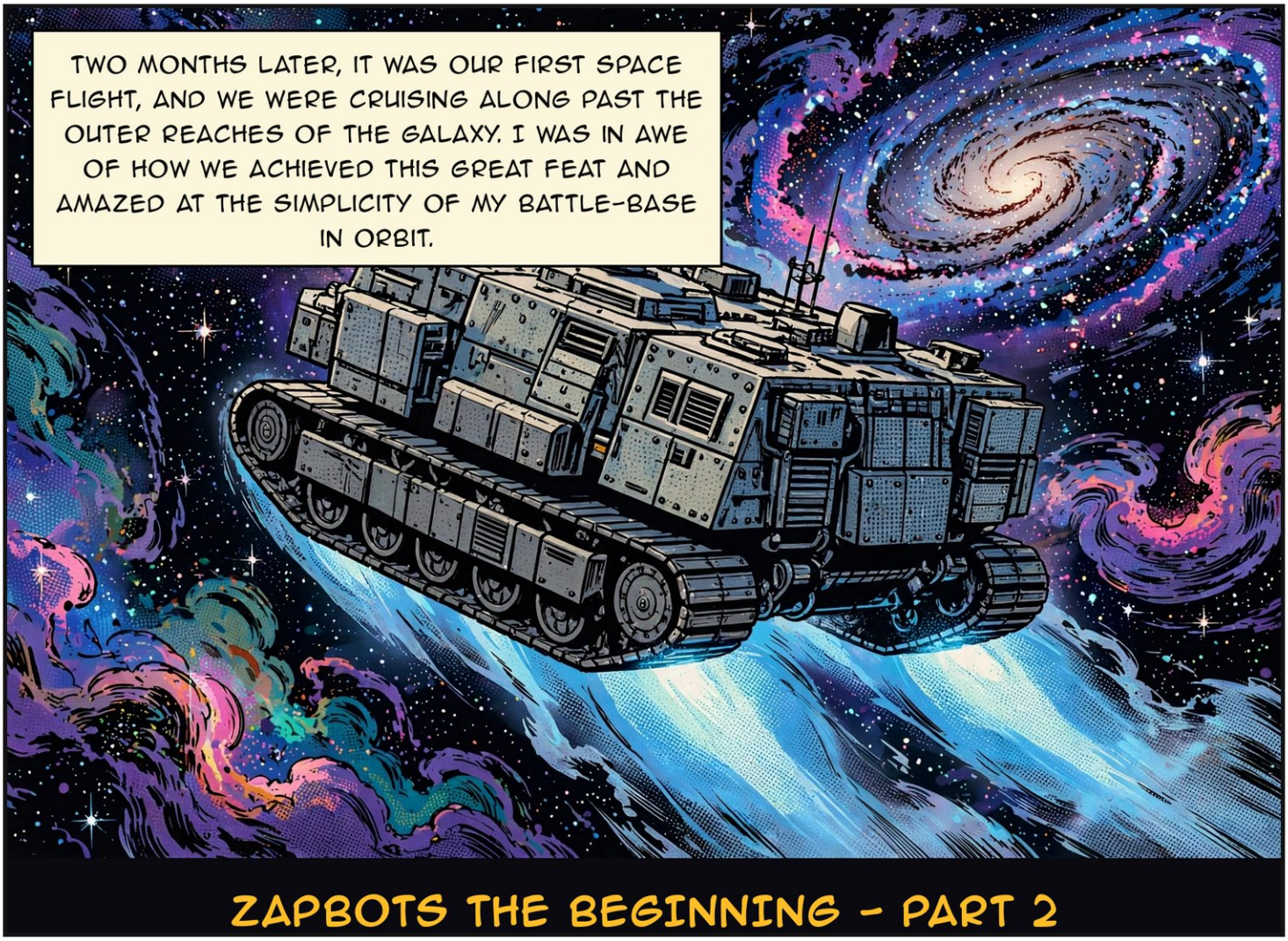



WE GOT COPS COMING!


WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!


I REALIZED I HAD TO LEAVE, AND LIFE WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.
10


WITH THAT, I FLEW INTO THE AIR CRYING BECAUSE I HAD TO LEAVE A PART OF MY LIFE BEHIND.
TO BE CONTINUED...



ZAPBOTS THE BEGINNING - PART 2